AFTER A VAIN PURSUIT OF THE TRAITOR, GROMBO, FLASH, DALE AND BARIN RETURN TO THE TREE PALACE OF ARBORIA-------
AURA, MY DARLING!
OH, BARIN-- I'D HAVE DIED IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU, MY SWEET!
THIS IS BEGINNING TO SEEM LIKE HOME, ISN'T IT?
I'LL SAY IT IS!

BUT, UNKNOWN TO FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS, GROMBO HAS ESCAPED FROM THE FOREST KINGDOM AND INTO THE DREAD MONGO DESERT----
WATER! OH, IF I COULD ONLY FIND SOME WATER!

THE BURNING SUN ROBS GROMBO OF ALL HIS STRENGTH---
HE COLLAPSES---- FIERCE CARRION BIRDS WHEEL OVERHEAD-------

A COMPANY OF MING'S CRACK DESERT LEGION HALTS FOR A BRIEF REST-------
OVER THERE, LIEUTENANT-- LOOKS LIKE A MAN----
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAPTAIN ZUL--AND A TREE-MAN AT THAT-- HE'S PROBABLY DEAD--

GROMBO IS LOADED ONTO A STRETCHER AND THE COLUMN RESUMES ITS LONG MARCH BACK TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF EMPEROR MING, THE MERCILESS--------
LUCKY FOR YOU THAT WE CAME ALONG WHEN WE DID, TREE MAN!
8-15

CAPTAIN, YOU HAVE A MANIA FOR INTERRUPTING ME WITH AFFAIRS OF STATE WHILE I'M ENTERTAINING. WHAT IS IT NOW?
BAD NEWS, SIRE--- GROMBO ESCAPED AND WAS PICKED UP BY A COMPANY OF MING'S SOLDIERS!
MEANWHILE, BARIN IS HOLDING A BALL TO CELEBRATE HIS SAFE RETURN TO ARBORIA---------
NEXT WEEK:— A GRIM CHOICE

SIR, WE PICKED UP A DESERTER FROM THE FOREST KINGDOM--HE SAYS HE HAS A MESSAGE FOR THE EMPEROR'S EARS ALONE--

HM-M-M--MUST BE IMPORTANT----

THE FIFTH COMPANY, DESERT LEGION HAS RETURNED TO THE CAPITAL CITY--CAPTAIN ZUL REPORTS TO HIS COLONEL---

---AND SO, YOUR SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, YOUR ENEMY, FLASH GORDON, IS ALIVE AND IS A GUEST IN BARIN'S PALACE WITH DALE ARDEN--

AH-HA! SO THEY ARE ALIVE, EH? YOUR NEWS IS INDEED VALUABLE, ---CAPTAIN GROMBO!

THE COLONEL RELAYS THE NEWS TO MING, WHO SHREWDLY SENDS FOR GROMBO---

BARIN, YOU HAVE BEEN HIDING MY ENEMY, THE OUTLAW, FLASH GORDON--SINCE YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND, I WILL FORGIVE YOU, IF YOU SURRENDER FLASH AND DALE TO ME AT ONCE

THEY ARE MY FRIENDS, YOUR HIGHNESS---I REFUSE!

MING, THE MERCILESS, EMPEROR OF ALL MONGO, CALLS HIS SON-IN-LAW, KING BARIN, ON THE SPACEOPHONE-----

GROMBO ESCAPED AND TOLD MING THAT FLASH AND DALE WERE HERE--BARIN REFUSED TO SURRENDER THEM--I'M AFRAID THIS MEANS WAR--

IN THE PALACE GARDENS, FLASH AND DALE HEAR THE NEWS------

OH, DARLING--CAN'T WE EVEF FIND PEACE AND HAPPINESS? BARIN HASN'T A CHANCE AGAINST MING--WE MUST GO AWAY FROM HERE!

THERE, THERE, DALE--LET'S NOT ACT TOO HASTILY---- WE'LL WAIT UNTIL MORNING BEFORE DECIDING---

8-22

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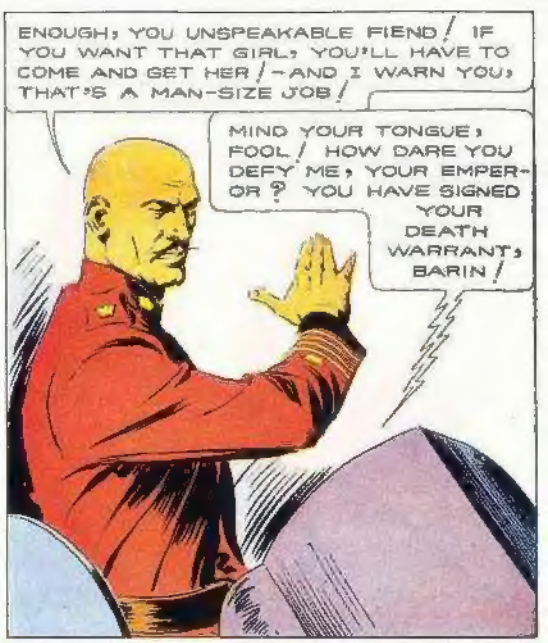
"SWEETHEART! PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR LEAVING YOU LIKE THIS--BUT YOU ARE SAFER HERE THAN YOU'D BE WITH ME IN THE DEADLY JUNGLE--HAVE BARIN TELL MING THAT I HAVE DISAPPEARED--I SHALL RETURN TO YOU WHEN ALL THIS BLOWS OVER--I'LL COUNT THE HOURS TILL THEN"------

FLASH

LATER------- FLASH MAKES A VALIANT BID TO PRESERVE THE PEACE OF BARIN'S KINGDOM----------

NEXT WEEK: MING'S DECISION



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MING HAS DECLARED WAR ON BARIN, BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO SURRENDER DALE TO HIM TO BE USED AS BAIT IN CAPTURING FLASH GORDON—MING'S GENERALS ARE NOW PLOTTING THEIR ATTACK—

DALE PLEADS VAINLY WITH BARIN-----
BUT, BARIN, YOU CAN'T HOPE TO WIN AGAINST MING—THINK OF YOUR KINGDOM—IT'S MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN—THEY MUST NOT SUFFER ON MY ACCOUNT---
I HAVE PLACED THE MATTER BEFORE MY PEOPLE, DALE—AND THEY ARE WITH ME TO THE END---- MING CANNOT HAVE YOU OR FLASH

BOWS AND ARROWS AGAINST ROCKET SHIPS AND THE MOST UP-TO-DATE ARMAMENTS ON MONGO! MING WAS WISE IN REFUSING TO ALLOW US TO MODERNIZE OUR ARMY!
OUR EMPEROR! HATED AND FEARED BY EVERY MAN ON MONGO! BUT, GENERAL, A CHAMPION HAS COME TO OUR PLANET—FLASH GORDON! EVERY DAY HE LIVES, MING'S POWER FADES!

FLASH HAS REACHED THE EDGE OF BARIN'S KINGDOM, BORDERING ON THE GREAT MONGO DESERT—HE STOPS IN AMAZEMENT AT WHAT HE SEES—
LATE THAT NIGHT----
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--HUGE ENGINES OF DESTRUCTION DRONE RELENTLESSLY TOWARD THE FOREST KINGDOM OF ARBORIA—BEHIND THEM, STRETCHED AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN REACH, ARE SOLDIERS OF MING'S DREAD DESERT LEGION!------

FILLED WITH A MIGHTY RAGE AT MING'S TREACHERY, FLASH CASTS OFF HIS BOOTS, CAPE AND TUNIC, AND WITH A KNIFE AS HIS ONLY WEAPON, STARTS TOWARD THE INVADING HOST!
NEXT WEEK
A MAD SCHEME
9-5

FLASH DISCOVERED THAT MING'S DESERT LEGION, LED BY FAST ARMOTRACTORS, HAS CROSSED THE GREAT DESERT AND IS ABOUT TO INVADE BARIN'S KINGDOM—FLASH WORMS HIS WAY TOWARD THE LEADING MACHINE----

I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ME!

HUDDLED IN A SANDY DEPRESSION, FLASH WAITS 'TIL THE ARMOTRACTOR ROARS BY HIM—THEN HE LEAPS AND SEIZES A HANDRAIL----

NOISELESSLY, HE SWINGS ABOARD AND STEALS TOWARD THE OPEN HATCH----

SO FAR, SO GOOD! IF I DON'T ACT FAST NOW, I'M A GONER!

HE DROPS THROUGH THE HATCH! BEFORE THE STARTLED CREW CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES, FLASH'S SLEDGE-HAMMER FISTS ACCOUNT FOR TWO OF THEM----

THE THIRD MAN, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE, DRAWS HIS GUN, BUT FLASH'S FLYING BODY SWEEPS HIM OFF HIS FEET! HIS HEAD STRIKES THE FLOOR---

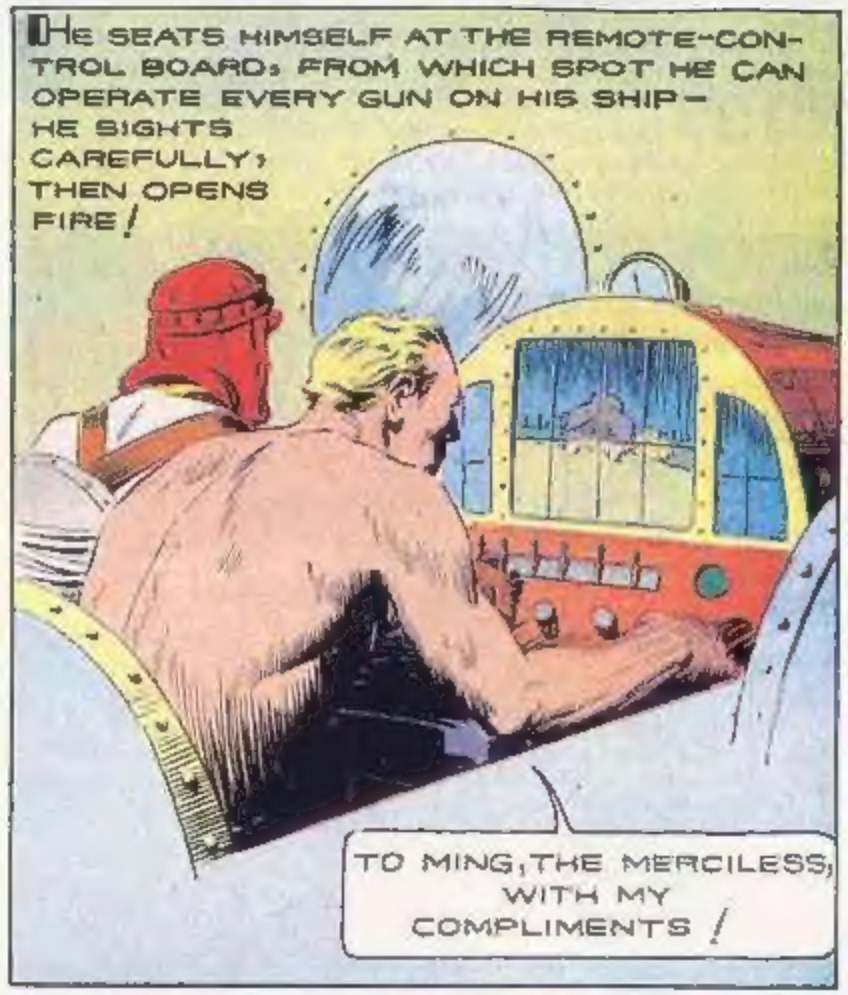
--AND NOW, DRIVER, YOU'D BETTER MAKE FOR BARIN'S FOREST, AS FAST AS THIS THING WILL GO!

FLASH GORDON! LIVING UP TO YOUR REPUTATION, AREN'T YOU? BUT YOU CAN'T HOPE TO GET AWAY WITH THIS!

NEXT WEEK
SURPRISE ATTACK

ALONE AND ARMED ONLY WITH A DAGGER, FLASH BOARDS AND CAPTURES ONE OF MING'S HUGE ARMOTANKS, THE SPEARHEAD OF HIS INVADING FORCES---
I'VE TRUSSED UP THOSE OTHER MEN BACK THERE AND NOW I'LL LASH YOU TO YOUR SEAT, SO THAT YOU WON'T TRY ANY OF YOUR TRICKS!
BUT THIS IS SUICIDE! THEY HAVE ROCKET PLANES AND ATOM-SMASHING GUNS! THEY'LL BLAST US OUT OF EXISTENCE!

HAVING REACHED THE SHELTER OF THE GIGANTIC TREES OF BARIN'S FOREST, FLASH FORCES THE ARMOTANK TO THE TOP OF A HIGH KNOLL----
---AND SWINGS IT ABOUT, SO THAT IT FACES MING'S FORCES----


HE SEATS HIMSELF AT THE REMOTE-CONTROL BOARD, FROM WHICH SPOT HE CAN OPERATE EVERY GUN ON HIS SHIP— HE SIGHTS CAREFULLY, THEN OPENS FIRE!
TO MING, THE MERCILESS, WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!

THE REMAINDER OF MING'S ARMOTANKS SHUDDER AND RECOIL UNDER FLASH'S SURPRISE ATTACK— BUT THEY RECOVER AND PRESS FORWARD, GUNS BELCHING A RETURN FIRE!

CAUGHT COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE, THE INFANTRY WAVERS AND BREAKS UNDER THE FIERCE ATTACK!

BUT AT THE SOUND OF FIRING, AS PLANNED BEFOREHAND, MING'S SUPPORTING ROCKET FLEET TAKES THE AIR!
9-19
NEXT WEEK — INFERNO

FLASH HAS CAPTURED ONE OF MING'S ARMOTANKS AND, IN DEFENSE OF BARIN'S KINGDOM, HAS TURNED ITS GUNS AGAINST MING'S INVADING FORCES----
THE INFANTRY IS DIGGING IN UNTIL OUR ROCKETS SILENCE THE ARMOTANK'S GUNS, SIR--
A MUTINOUS CREW, NO DOUBT-KEEP HEADQUARTERS INFORMED, MAJOR--
MING'S ROCKET FLEET REACHES THE EDGE OF BARIN'S FOREST KINGDOM AND CIRCLES, SEEKING ITS PREY----
AH! THERE HE IS, DIRECTLY BELOW US! GIVE THE ORDER TO DIVE, LIEUTENANT!
YES, SIR!
THE ROCKET FLEET HOWLS TOWARD THE GROUND AT BLINDING SPEED, SPEWING HIGH EXPLOSIVES AND DEADLY RAYS!
A SECTION OF THE FOREST LEAPS INTO THE AIR--TREES, THREE AND FOUR HUNDRED FEET HIGH, ARE TOSSED LIKE MATCHSTICKS ON A RAGING OCEAN!---
THE FURIOUS EXPLOSIONS SWEEP FLASH'S BATTERED ARMOTANK FROM ITS POSITION ON THE KNOLL!---
MEANWHILE, AT BARIN'S PALACE---
MING HAS CARRIED OUT HIS THREAT-HE IS INVADING ARBORIA FROM THE DESERT-HIS ROCKET FLEET IS ON THE WAY HERE-I ORDER THE PALACE DESERTED AT ONCE!
9-26
NEXT WEEK
TRAPPED

AWARE THAT MING'S ROCKET FLEET IS COMING TO BOMBARD HIS CASTLE, BARIN HAS ORDERED THE POPULACE TO SEEK SAFETY IN THE HUGE TREES----

THE CASTLE IS PRACTICALLY EVACUATED, SIRE--BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND HER HIGHNESS OR THE EARTH-GIRL---
THEY CAN'T BE FAR AWAY, COLONEL--THEY MUST BE FOUND! HURRY, MAN! IN A LITTLE WHILE, THIS PLACE WILL BE A SHAMBLES!

BARIN'S OFFICER DISCOVERS AURA AND DALE IN THE HOSPITAL, VISITING THE SICK--
THE KING HAS ORDERED ME TO CONDUCT YOU TO A PLACE OF SAFETY, YOUR HIGHNESS--MING'S BOMBERS ARE ON THE WAY HERE!
NOT 'TIL THESE PATIENTS ARE REMOVED FROM THE BUILDING--ORDER YOUR MEN TO WORK AT ONCE!

A HALF HOUR LATER, AS THE LAST PATIENT IS BEING CARRIED FROM THE BUILDING--
EASY, DALE--BARIN AND I WANTED TO KEEP THIS FROM YOU--THERE IS NO HOPE FOR POOR ZARKOV--HIS MIND IS GONE!
GOOD HEAVENS, AURA, IT'S DOCTOR ZARKOV!

--AT THAT MOMENT, THE FLAGSHIP OF MING'S FLEET ROARS OVERHEAD--ITS BOMB-RACKS SWING OPEN-------
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A SERIES OF DEAFENING EXPLOSIONS REND BARIN'S PROUD CASTLE--AND THE HOSPITAL COLLAPSES IN ON ITSELF, TRAPPING THOSE WITHIN
NEXT WEEK
A CAPTIVE
103

WHEN FLASH'S ARMOTANK WAS BLASTED OFF THE KNOLL, IT CAME TO REST IN A SWAMP -- MING'S ADVANCING INFANTRY STOPS TO INVESTIGATE IT ------

QUICK, SERGEANT -- RUN BACK AND PUT THROUGH A CALL TO FIELD HEADQUARTERS -- HURRY, MAN!
GREAT TAO! LOOK, SIR, IT'S FLASH GORDON!

GOOD NEWS FROM THE FRONT, SIRE -- OUR TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED FLASH GORDON ALIVE! WE AWAIT YOUR HIGHNESS' FURTHER ORDERS --
I HAVE ATTAINED MY GOAL! RECALL YOUR TROOPS AND RETURN TO THE CAPITAL AT ONCE --- YOU SHALL BE HANDSOMELY REWARDED, GENERAL!
FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF THE DESERT LEGION IMMEDIATELY CONTACT EMPEROR MING ------

THAT'S QUEER! LOOK, GENERAL, THEY'VE CEASED BOMBING US --- THEY'RE TURNING BACK! A TRICK, NO DOUBT!
THEY CERTAINLY CAN'T BE OUT OF AMMUNITION -----
MEANWHILE, BARIN, HELPLESS TO FIGHT BACK, HAS WATCHED MING'S HUGE ROCKET SHIPS RUTHLESSLY BOMBARD HIS BEAUTIFUL CASTLE ------

AT THAT MOMENT, A MESSENGER RUSHES UP TO BARIN ------
I BRING SHOCKING NEWS, SIRE --- HER MAJESTY, QUEEN AURA, AND DALE ARDEN WERE HELPING TO REMOVE THE PATIENTS FROM THE HOSPITAL, WHEN IT WAS BOMBED!
NO! YOU CAN'T MEAN IT, MAN! AURA, MY BELOVED, DEAD?

HALF MAD WITH ANXIETY, BARIN LABORS SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIS MEN TO CLEAR AWAY THE TUMBLED RUINS, EACH MAN DREADING THAT WHICH THE RUINS MUST EVENTUALLY DISCLOSE!
NEXT WEEK: IN THE RUINS

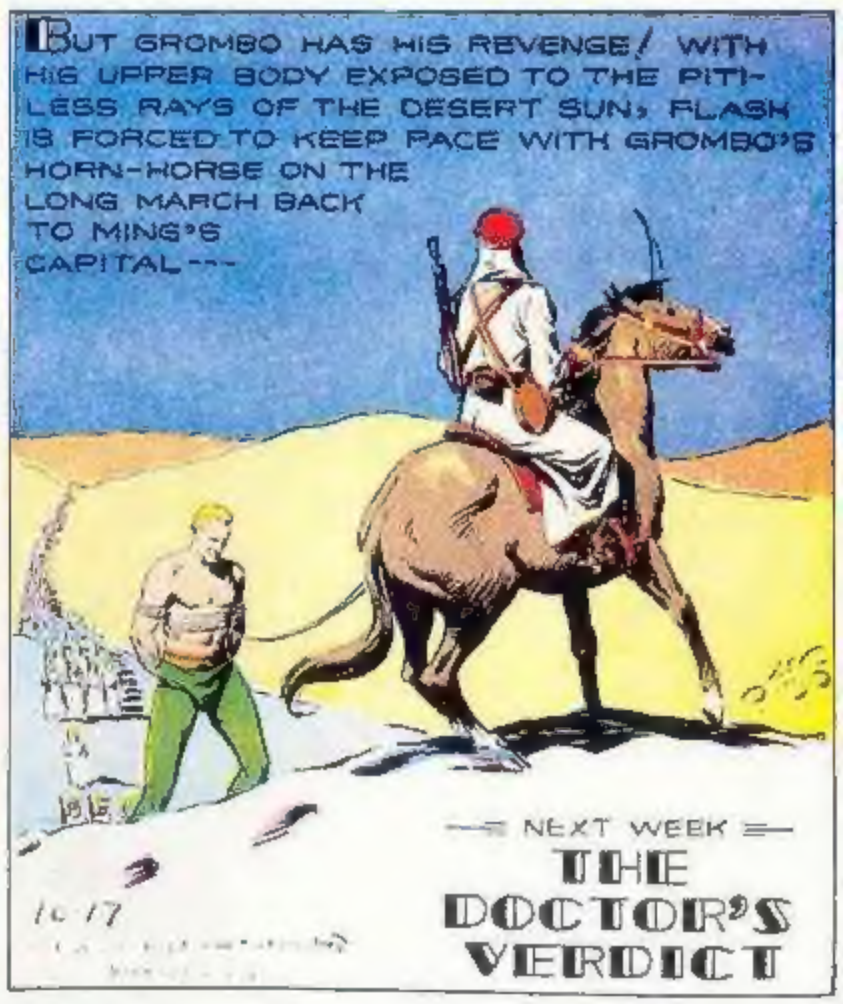
NOTIFIED THAT HIS TROOPS HAD CAPTURED FLASH GORDON, MING CALLED OFF HIS INVASION OF
ARBORIA, BUT NOT UNTIL HIS ROCKETS HAD BOMBED BARIN'S CASTLE AND BURIED AURA AND DALE IN THE WRECKAGE---DAWN FINDS BARIN REELING FROM EXHAUSTION, BUT STILL DESPERATELY STRIVING TO PENETRATE THE RUINS----

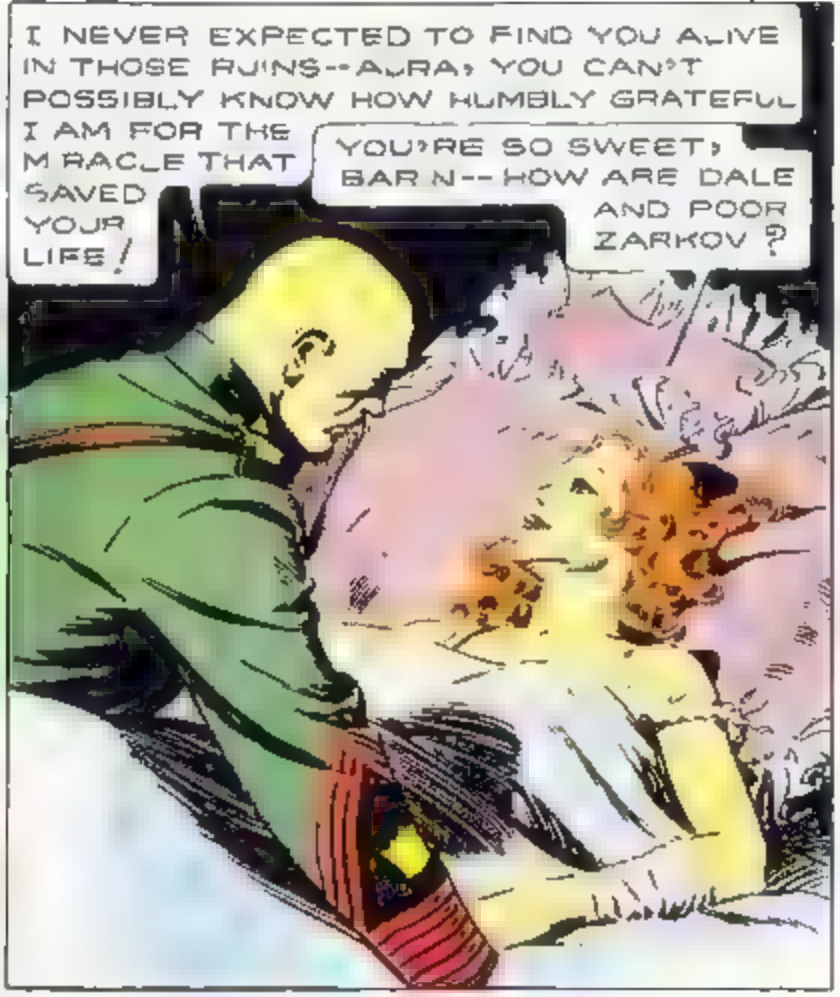
KING BARIN! COME QUICK, SIRE! WE'VE FOUND THEM!

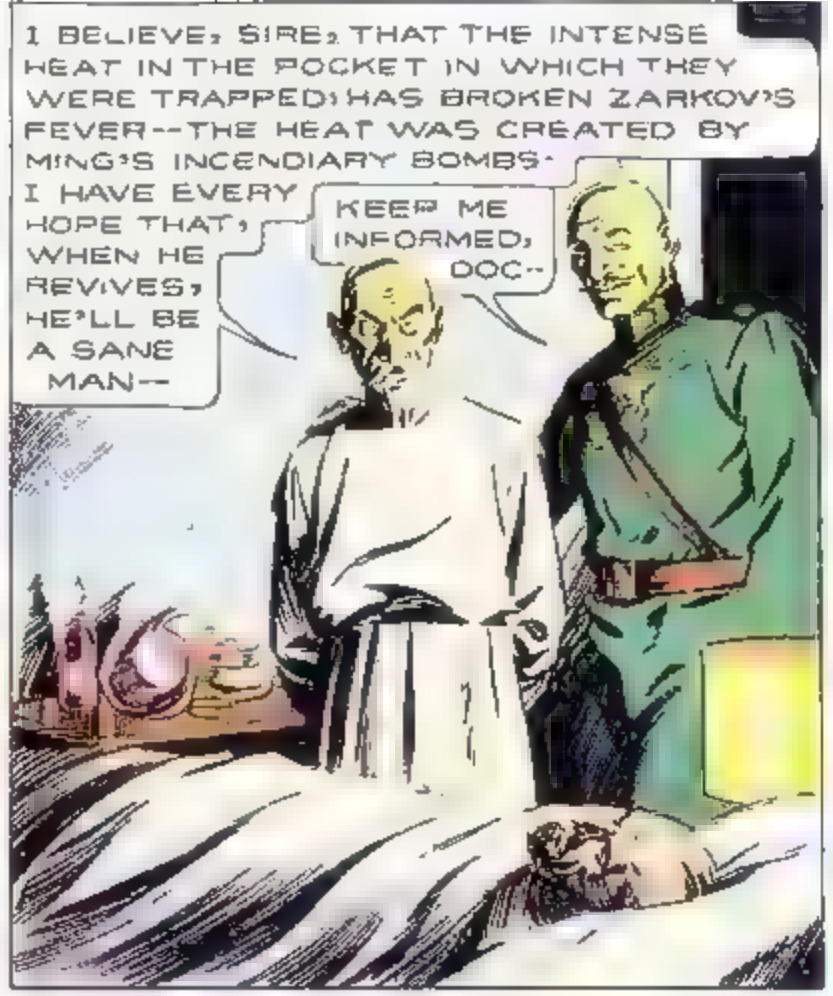
CALL THE MEDICAL OFFICER, QUICK!
BARIN IS LED TO A POCKET, FORMED WHEN THE BUILDING COLLAPSED--- ICY FEAR GRIPS HIS HEART AT WHAT HIS EYES BEHOLD-----

GROMBO! WELL, WELL! FROM A WAITER IN BARIN'S KINGDOM TO A CAPTAIN IN MING'S INFANTRY! FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS!
WHY, YOU---YOU---! MING WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS!
MEAN-WHILE, FLASH IS LED BEFORE THE OFFICER WHO IS TO DELIVER HIM TO MING, THE MERCILESS------

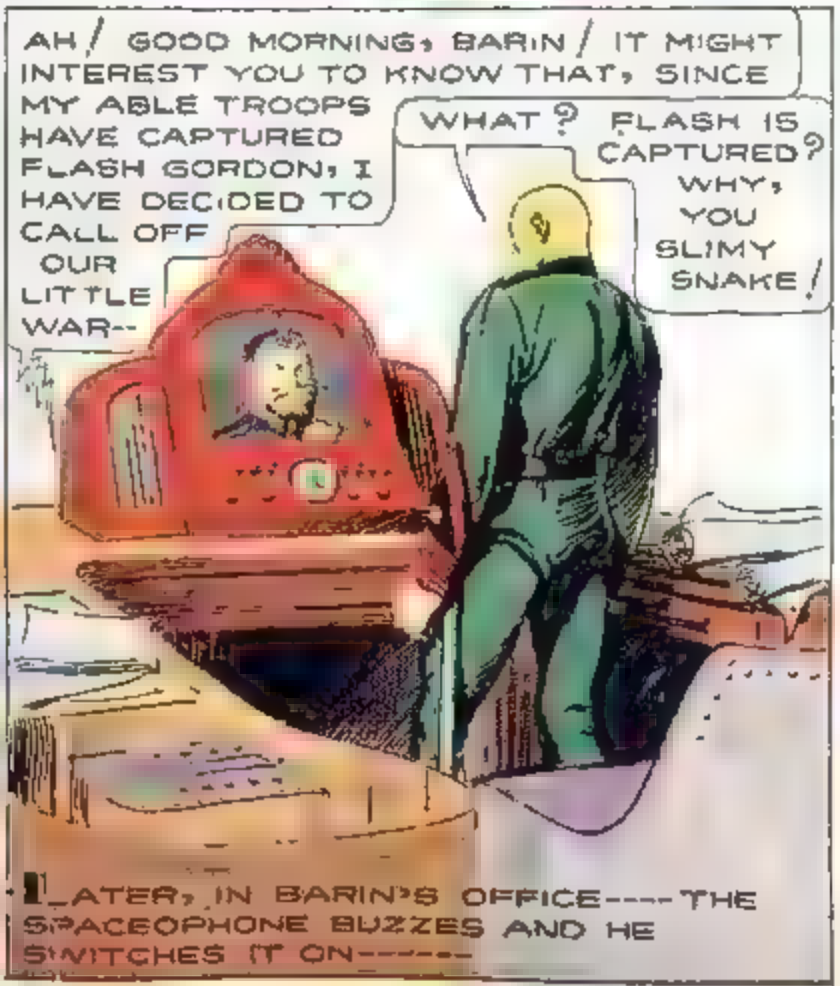
TELL HIM ABOUT THIS, TOO----YOU LOW-DOWN TRAITOR!

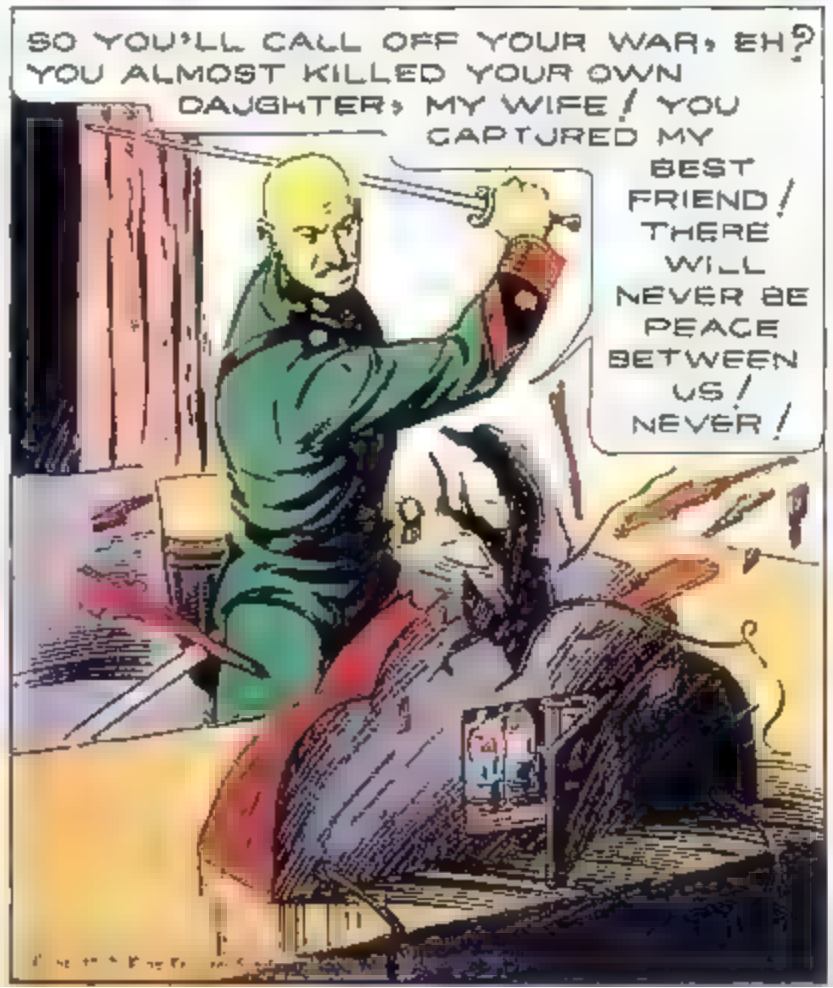

BUT GROMBO HAS HIS REVENGE! WITH HIS UPPER BODY EXPOSED TO THE PITILESS RAYS OF THE DESERT SUN, FLASH IS FORCED TO KEEP PACE WITH GROMBO'S HORN-HORSE ON THE LONG MARCH BACK TO MING'S CAPITAL---
NEXT WEEK
THE DOCTOR'S VERDICT


I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND YOU ALIVE IN THOSE RUINS--AURA, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW HOW HUMBLY GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE MIRACLE THAT SAVED YOUR LIFE!
YOU'RE SO SWEET, BARIN--HOW ARE DALE AND POOR ZARKOV?

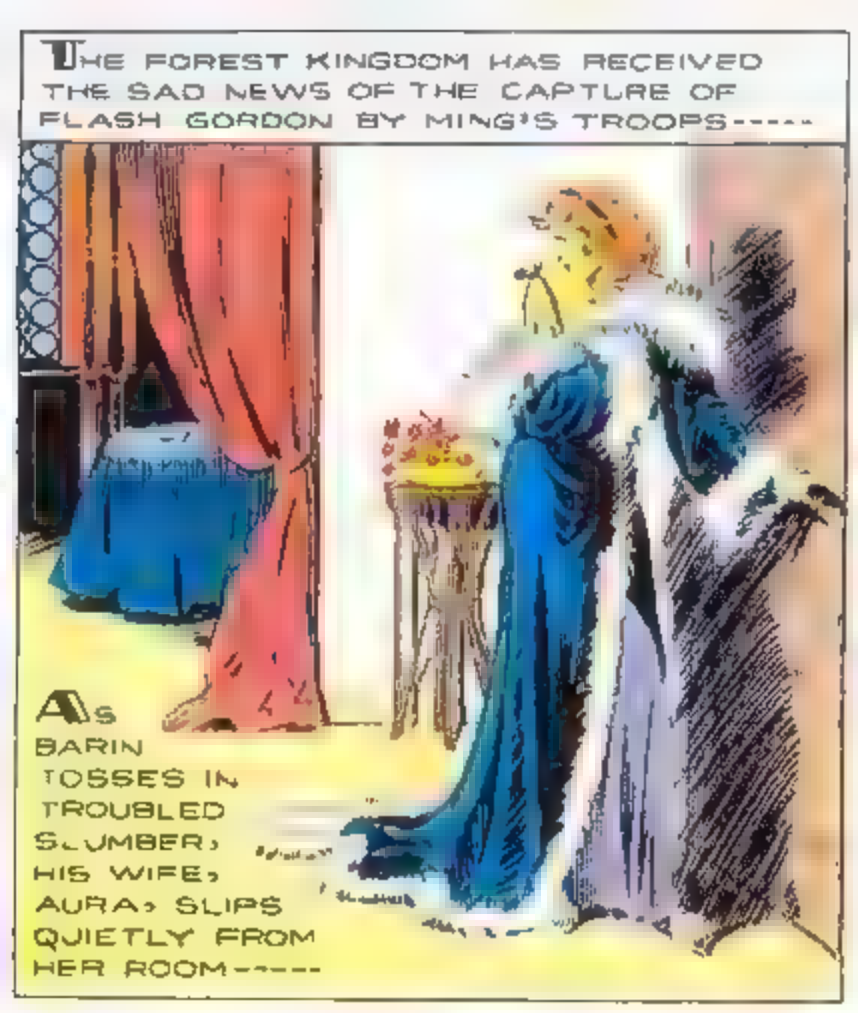

I BELIEVE, SIRE, THAT THE INTENSE HEAT IN THE POCKET IN WHICH THEY WERE TRAPPED, HAS BROKEN ZARKOV'S FEVER--THE HEAT WAS CREATED BY MING'S INCENDIARY BOMBS. I HAVE EVERY HOPE THAT, WHEN HE REVIVES, HE'LL BE A SANE MAN--
KEEP ME INFORMED, DOC--

ISN'T IT SWELL ABOUT ZARKOV? OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT SURE, YET--WHY, DALE, YOU'RE CRYING! TELL ME, WHAT'S WRONG?
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL ABOUT ZARKOV, BARIN--BUT--OH, IF I ONLY KNEW THAT FLASH WAS SAFE!


AH! GOOD MORNING, BARIN! IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT, SINCE MY ABLE TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED FLASH GORDON, I HAVE DECIDED TO CALL OFF OUR LITTLE WAR--
WHAT? FLASH IS CAPTURED? WHY, YOU SLIMY SNAKE!
LATER, IN BARIN'S OFFICE----THE SPACEOPHONE BUZZES AND HE SWITCHES IT ON------


SO YOU'LL CALL OFF YOUR WAR, EH? YOU ALMOST KILLED YOUR OWN DAUGHTER, MY WIFE! YOU CAPTURED MY BEST FRIEND! THERE WILL NEVER BE PEACE BETWEEN US! NEVER!

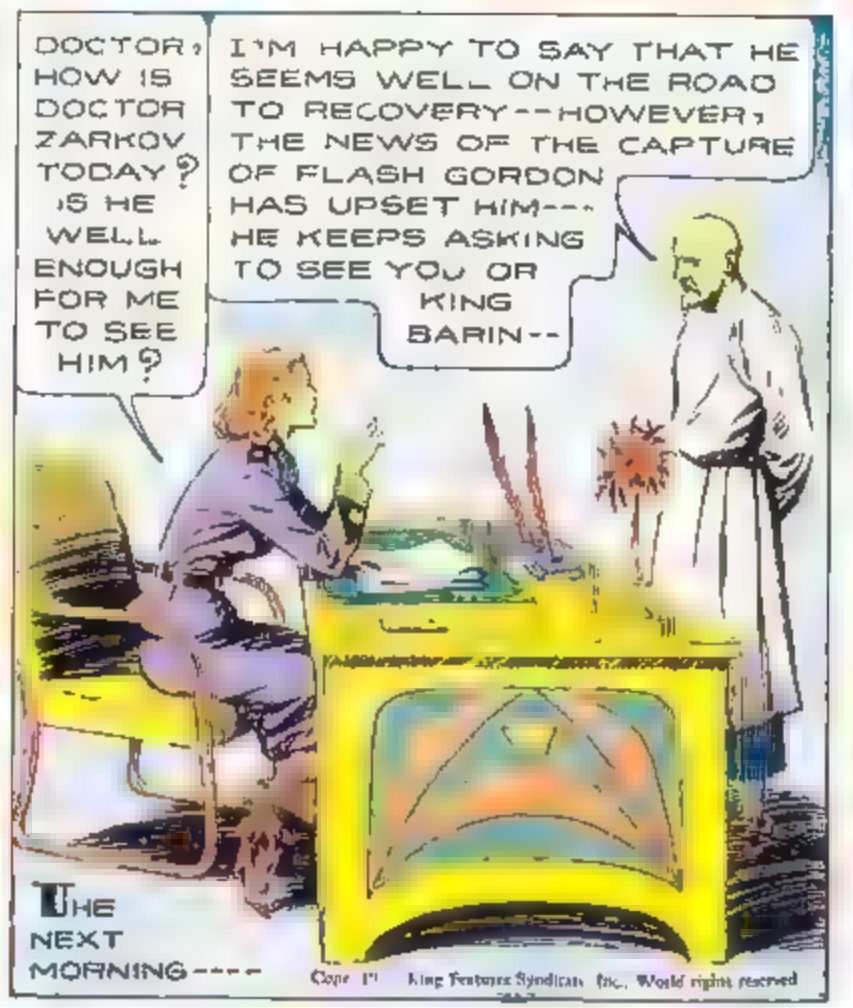
MEANWHILE, FLASH, ROPED TO GROMBO'S HORSE, COLLAPSES FROM EXHAUSTION AND EXPOSURE TO THE DESERT SUN---
THROW THAT PIG ON A STRETCHER--
10 24
NEXT WEEK
A DARING PLAN


THE FOREST KINGDOM HAS RECEIVED THE SAD NEWS OF THE CAPTURE OF FLASH GORDON BY MING'S TROOPS-----
AS BARIN TOSSES IN TROUBLED SLUMBER, HIS WIFE, AURA, SLIPS QUIETLY FROM HER ROOM-----

----SHE TIP-TOES FROM HER CHAMBERS TO THE SUITE ACROSS THE CORRIDOR AND TAPS SOFTLY AT THE DOOR---

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME, AURA----I KEEP THINKING OF POOR FLASH--HE NEEDS ME AND I CAN'T HELP HIM! I CAN'T STAND IT, AURA! I CAN'T STAND IT!
SH-H-H! CONTROL YOURSELF, DALE! WHAT WOULD FLASH SAY IF HE COULD SEE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS?

LISTEN--IF ANYONE IS TO SAVE FLASH FROM MY FATHER, IT MUST BE US! I HAVE MORE INFLUENCE WITH MING THAN ANYONE ON MONGO! WE MUST STEAL AWAY FROM HERE WITHOUT BARIN KNOWING IT, FOR HE'D NEVER PERMIT ME TO DO THIS--WILL YOU TAKE THE CHANCE?
AURA, I'LL DO ANYTHING TO SAVE MY FLASH! ANYTHING!


DOCTOR, HOW IS DOCTOR ZARKOV TODAY? IS HE WELL ENOUGH FOR ME TO SEE HIM?
I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT HE SEEMS WELL ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY--HOWEVER, THE NEWS OF THE CAPTURE OF FLASH GORDON HAS UPSET HIM---HE KEEPS ASKING TO SEE YOU OR KING BARIN--
THE NEXT MORNING----
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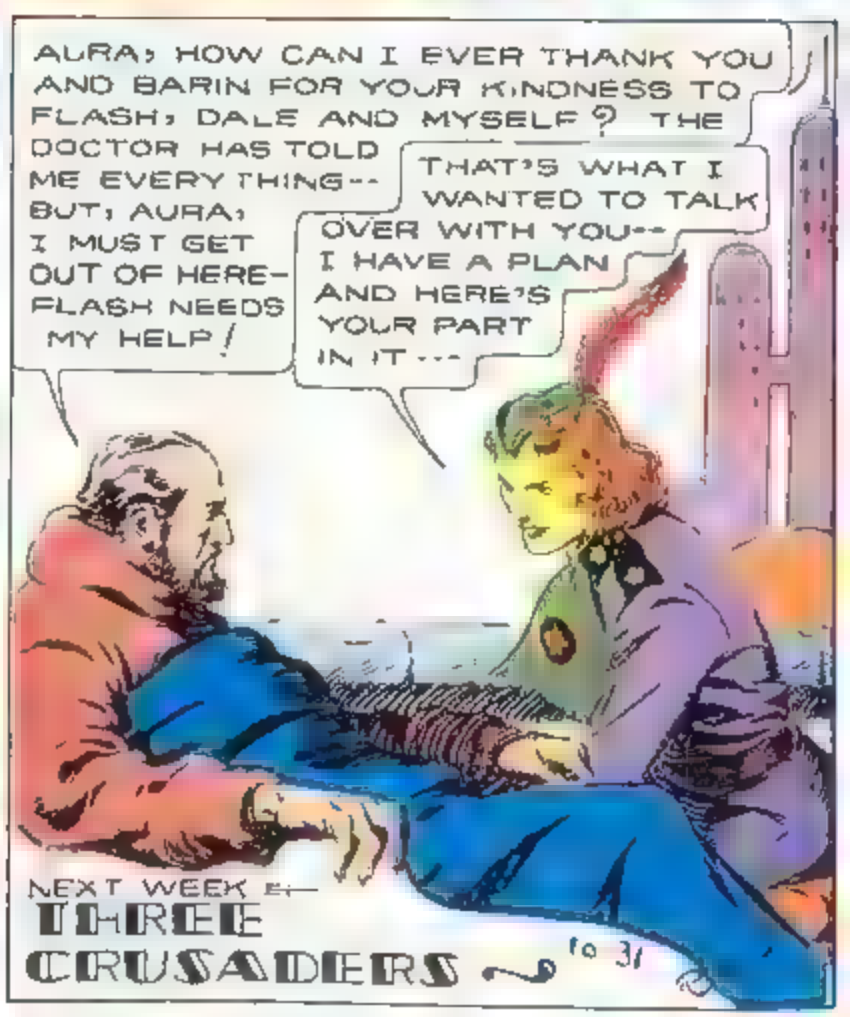
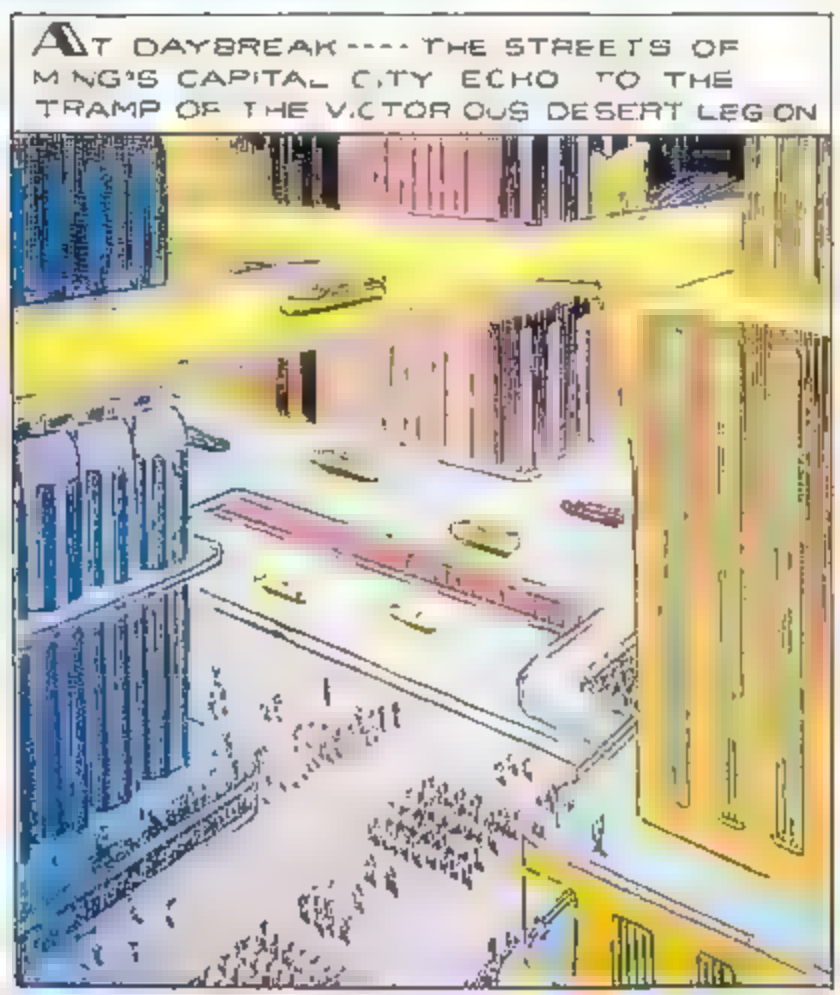

AURA, HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU AND BARIN FOR YOUR KINDNESS TO FLASH, DALE AND MYSELF? THE DOCTOR HAS TOLD ME EVERYTHING--BUT, AURA, I MUST GET OUT OF HERE--FLASH NEEDS MY HELP!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK OVER WITH YOU--I HAVE A PLAN AND HERE'S YOUR PART IN IT---
NEXT WEEK IN— THREE CRUSADERS
to 31

DALE AND AURA HAVE CONCEIVED A PLAN TO SAVE FLASH GORDON, WHO HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY MING'S TROOPS AND IS BEING TAKEN TO THE EMPEROR - ---
--LATE AT NIGHT, THEY STEAL FROM BARIN'S CASTLE AND DASH TO AN ARCH LEADING TO ONE OF THE TREE HIGHWAYS, WHERE TWO MUFFLED FIGURES AWAIT THEIR COMING---

S ALL IN READI-NESS, CAPTAIN SERRO?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS-- NO SENTRIES WILL STOP YOU ON THIS ROAD---
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS TRIP, ZARKOV?
DON'T WORRY, DALE- I FEEL FINE--

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, CAPTAIN- NOW I WANT YOU TO GIVE THIS LETTER OF EXPLANATION TO HIS HIGHNESS, KING BARIN -
FAREWELL, YOUR HIGHNESS-- YOU WILL FIND HORN-HORSES AND SUPPLIES AT THE END OF THE ROAD


AT DAYBREAK---- THE STREETS OF MING'S CAPITAL CITY ECHO TO THE TRAMP OF THE VICTORIOUS DESERT LEGION

HE IS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE, YOUR HIGH-NESS HE HAD THE INSOLENCE TO STRIKE ME, SO I PUNISHED HIM BY FORCING HIM TO WALK BEHIND MY MOUNT, STRIPPED TO THE WAIST!
IN THE DESERT SUN, EH?
GROMBO PRESENTS FLASH GORDON TO MING, THE MERCILESS---
11-7

HOW DARE YOU BRING FLASH GORDON TO ME IN THIS SHAPE? SUPPOSE HE HAD DIED? I'D HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF MY REVENGE! CAPTAIN GROMBO, I HEREBY ORDER YOU REDUCED TO THE RANKS, FLOGGED AND TO SERVE SIX MONTHS AT HARD LABOR!
NEXT WEEK
ZARKOV'S SACRIFICE

SO THIS IS THE WRECK WHO DEFIED ME, EH? WELL, MY MEDDLING FOOL, I SHALL GIVE YOU THE FINEST MEDICAL CARE THAT MONGO CAN OFFER, SO YOU SHALL BE FIT TO SUFFER YOUR FATE! DOCTOR BONO, YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS!

YOUR SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, IT IS NOT MY DUTY, AS A DOCTOR, TO QUESTION THIS MAN'S FUTURE FATE--MY DUTY, SIRE, IS TO MAKE HIM WELL--I WILL DO MY BEST

I'M TOUGH, DOC--AS MING KNOWS!

FLASH IS BROUGHT BEFORE MING TO--- HEAR HIS DOOM! -

IN MONGO'S FOREMOST HOSPITAL----

EVEN THE HALLS ARE FILLED WITH HEALING SPECTRUM-RAY LIGHT, REFLECTED FROM THOSE TRANSPARENT METAL TUBES LINING THE WALLS--EVERY RESOURCE OF MONGO'S SCIENCE WILL BE AT YOUR SERVICE--

IN OTHER WORDS, THE CONDEMNED MAN WILL EAT A HEARTY BREAKFAST, EH, DOC?

MEANWHILE, DALE, AURA AND ZARKOV HAVE SET OUT TO CROSS THE GREAT MONGO DESERT, IN A MAD EXPEDITION TO RESCUE FLASH------

IT IS LONGER THIS WAY, BUT WE SHOULD AVOID MING'S DESERT PATROLS--HOW DO YOU FEEL, ZARKOV?

I--I FEEL ALL RIGHT, AURA--BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE WATER--THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT--

OH, IF WE COULD ONLY GO FASTER! POOR FLASH!

AURA'S MAP PROVES FAULTY---THEY MISS THE OASIS AND HAVE TO MAKE A DRY CAMP--ZARKOV IS LEFT ON GUARD--

DAYS OF TERRIBLE HEAT AND PARCHING THIRST--AND THE WOMEN DRAIN THEIR CANTEENS----

ONLY A DOZEN DROPS, YET THEY TASTE BETTER THAN ALL THE NECTAR IN ARBORIA!

MINE'S EMPTY--HOW'S YOURS, ZARKOV?

SORRY---I-I--HAVE---NO--MORE--

ZARKOV PITCHES FROM HIS SADDLE--

HIS CANTEEN LOOKS AS IF IT HAD BEEN DRY FOR DAYS----

HE WAS SICK--HE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME

AURA: THAT'S WHY OURS LASTED SO LONG! HE KEPT FILLING THEM FROM HIS!

OH, AURA, WE *MUST* SAVE HIM!

NEXT WEEK: **DESERT TRAP**

11 14

DUSK FALLS AS AURA, DALE AND ZARKOV FACE DEATH FROM THIRST IN THE GREAT MONGO DESERT-----

LOOK! HORSEMEN! IF I CAN ONLY MAKE THEM SEE US

THEY MIGHT NOT SEE US--IT'S GETTING TOO DARK--I'LL PILE UP OUR PACKS AND SET THEM AFIRE!

THE BLAZE BRINGS THE HORSEMEN--RUTHLESS, SUN-BLACKENED, DESERT OUTLAWS!----

I AM QUEEN AURA--GIVE US SOME WATER QUICKLY! WE HAVE A SICK MAN WITH US!

QUEEN? WE RECOGNIZE NO AUTHORITY BUT OUR OWN! TO US, YOU'RE JUST TWO VERY PRETTY WOMEN CAPTIVES!

I WON'T THANK YOU FOR THE WATER, OUTLAW--I KNOW IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU WANT LIVE CAPTIVES!

WHAT IS THAT? DID YOU SAY FLASH? DO YOU KNOW THE GREAT FLASH GORDON?

AT LEAST THEY SAVED ZARKOV'S LIFE--BUT NOW--HOW CAN WE EVER HELP FLASH?

BUT I TOLD YOU I WAS QUEEN AURA--KING BARIN'S WIFE--

I NEVER HEARD OF YOU--BUT EVEN IN THE DESERT, WE KNOW OF FLASH GORDON, THE MAN WHO WOULD FREE US FROM MING'S TYRANNY! WE'LL ESCORT YOU AS FAR AS WE DARE--

THE DESERT RAIDERS OFFER TO HELP FLASH'S FRIENDS----

IN THE GREAT MONGO HOSPITAL

I'M ALMOST SORRY TO SEE YOU GETTING WELL SO FAST--WHEN I THINK OF THE FATE IN STORE FOR YOU, SIR---

I FEEL A THOUSAND PERCENT BETTER, DOCTOR BONO---THANKS TO YOU----

THE EMPEROR INSPECTS HIS PRISONER--

PLEASE, YOUR SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, DO NOT EXCITE THE PATIENT, IF YOU WANT HIM TO GET WELL QUICKLY--

HE LOOKS WELL ENOUGH ALREADY--DON'T YOU DARE DELAY MY VENGEANCE WITH ANY OF YOUR LIES! I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THE TIME WHEN I COULD INFLICT THE SUPREME PENALTY ON THIS REBEL!

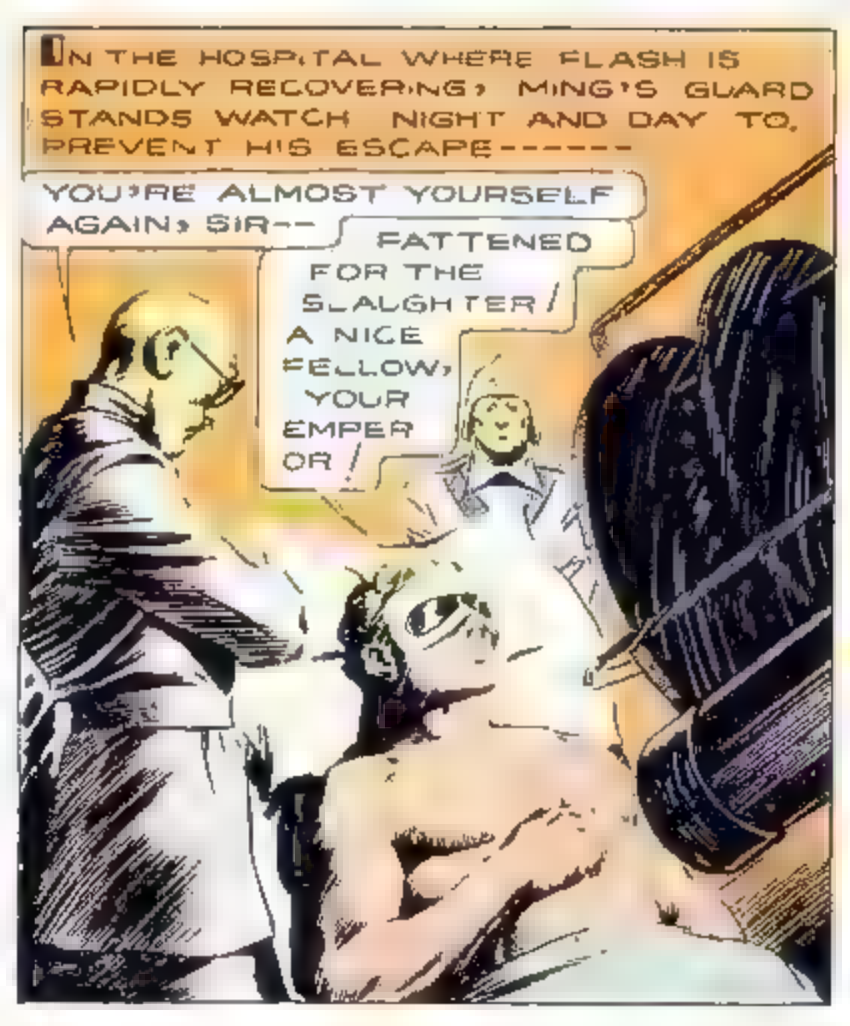
DON'T WAIT TOO LONG, MING!

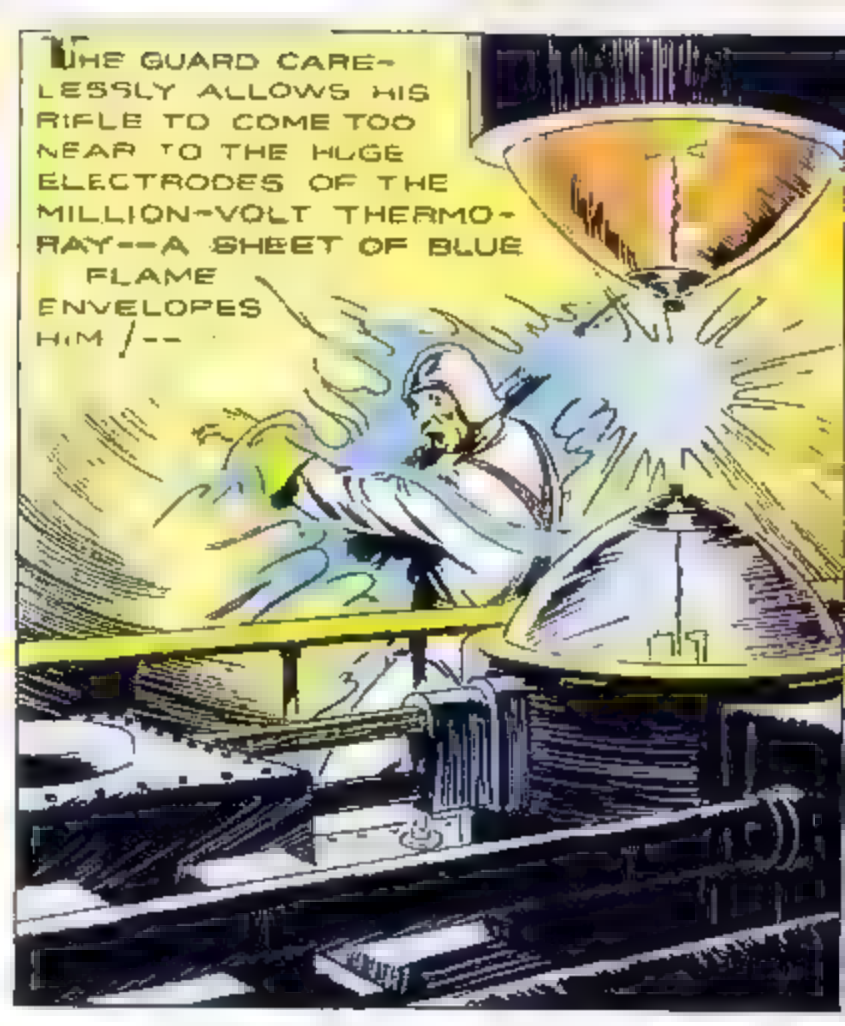
NEXT WEEK—

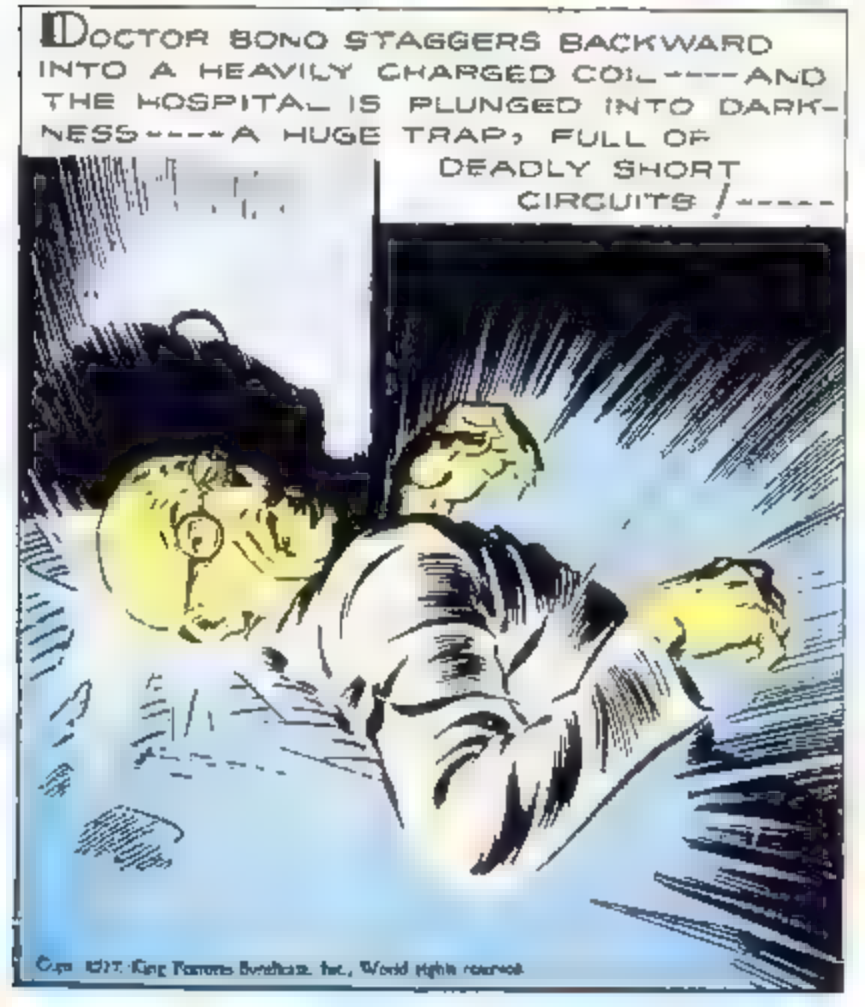
FLAMING DEATH

11-24

OH, LET'S HURRY!
YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE---I PROMISE TO RISK IT GLADLY IN TRYING TO SAVE FLASH--
FOLLOW THIS VALLEY TOWARD MING'S CAPITAL -- YOU'LL HAVE LESS DANGER OF RUNNING INTO HIS BORDER PATROLS--
THE DESERT RAIDERS, SPEED DALE, AURA AND ZARKOV ON THEIR RESCUE MISSION--


IN THE HOSPITAL WHERE FLASH IS RAPIDLY RECOVERING, MING'S GUARD STANDS WATCH NIGHT AND DAY TO PREVENT HIS ESCAPE------
YOU'RE ALMOST YOURSELF AGAIN, SIR--
FATTENED FOR THE SLAUGHTER! A NICE FELLOW, YOUR EMPEROR!


THE GUARD CARELESSLY ALLOWS HIS RIFLE TO COME TOO NEAR TO THE HUGE ELECTRODES OF THE MILLION-VOLT THERMO-RAY--A SHEET OF BLUE FLAME ENVELOPES HIM!--


DOCTOR BONO STAGGERS BACKWARD INTO A HEAVILY CHARGED COIL----AND THE HOSPITAL IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS----A HUGE TRAP, FULL OF DEADLY SHORT CIRCUITS!-----
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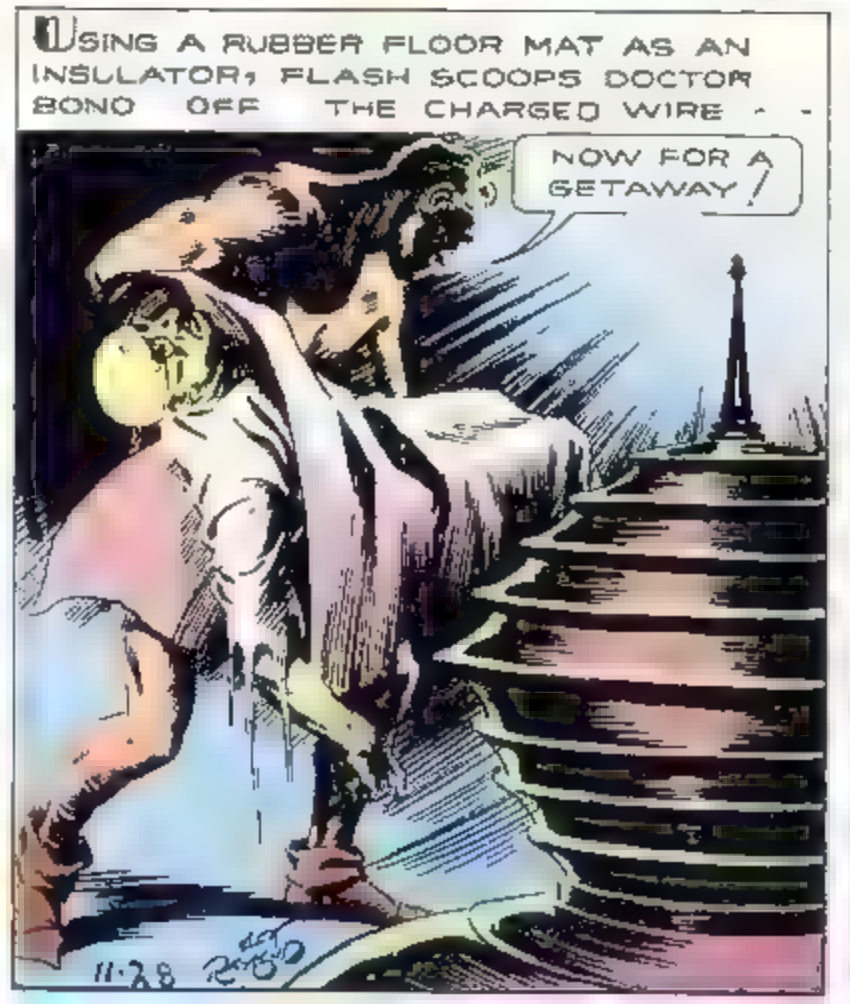
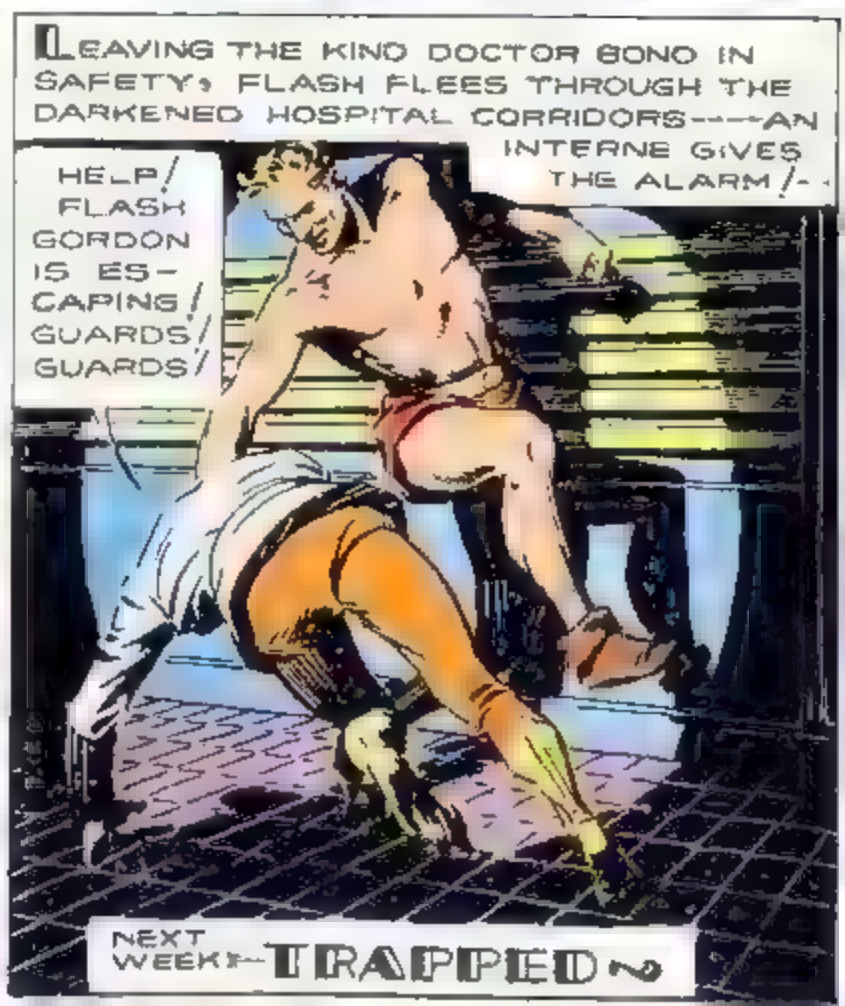
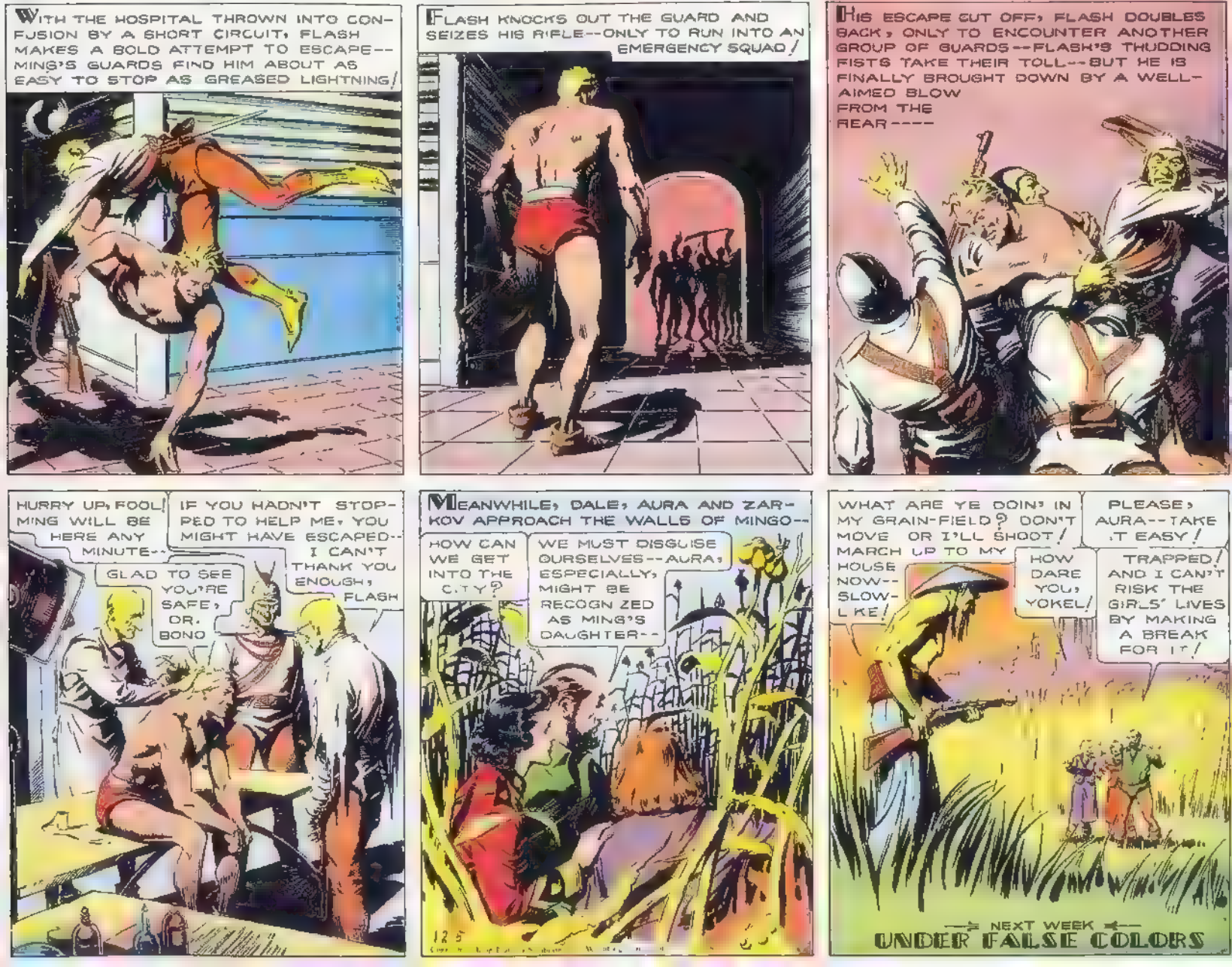
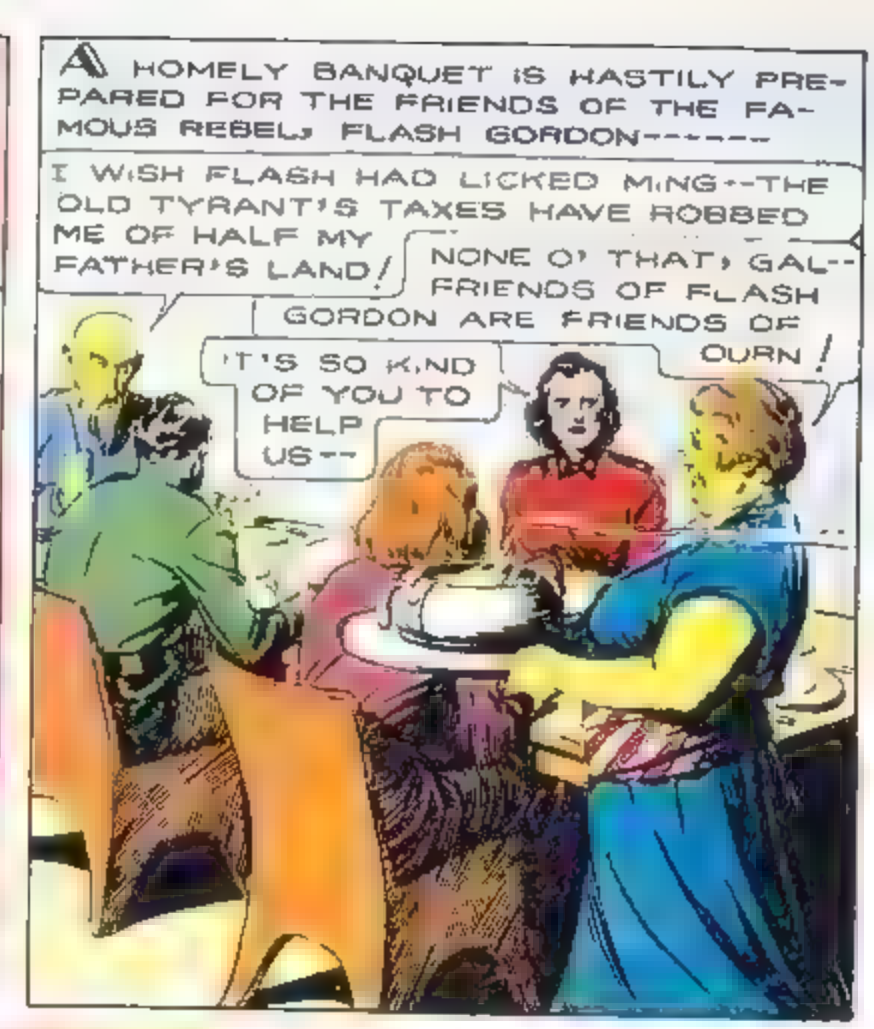
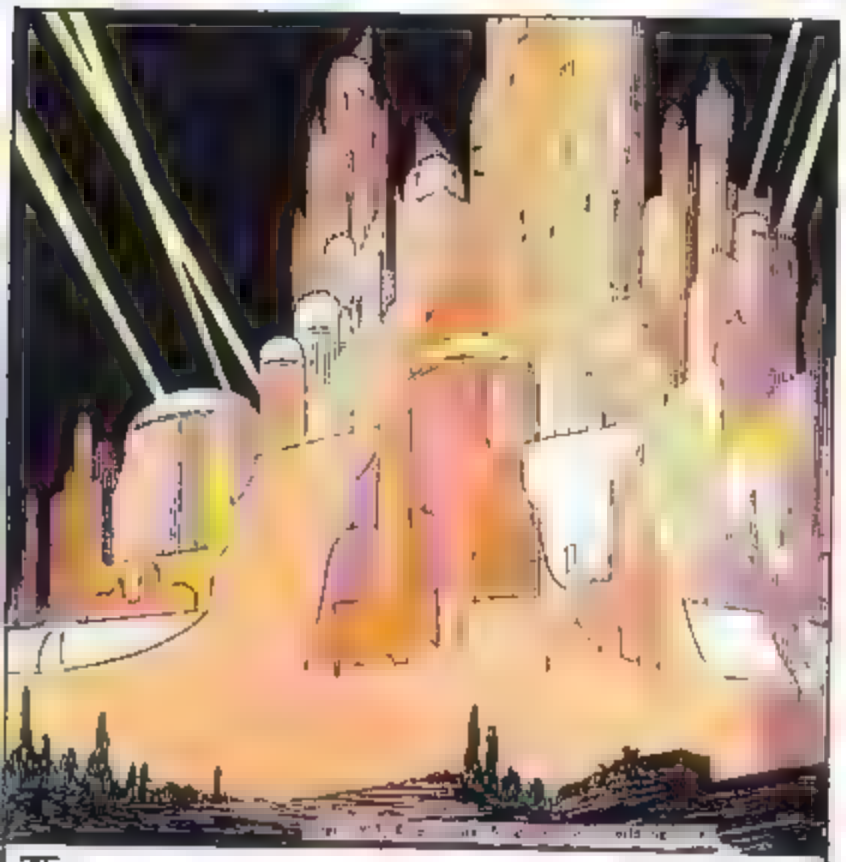

USING A RUBBER FLOOR MAT AS AN INSULATOR, FLASH SCOOPS DOCTOR BONO OFF THE CHARGED WIRE - -
NOW FOR A GETAWAY!
11-28

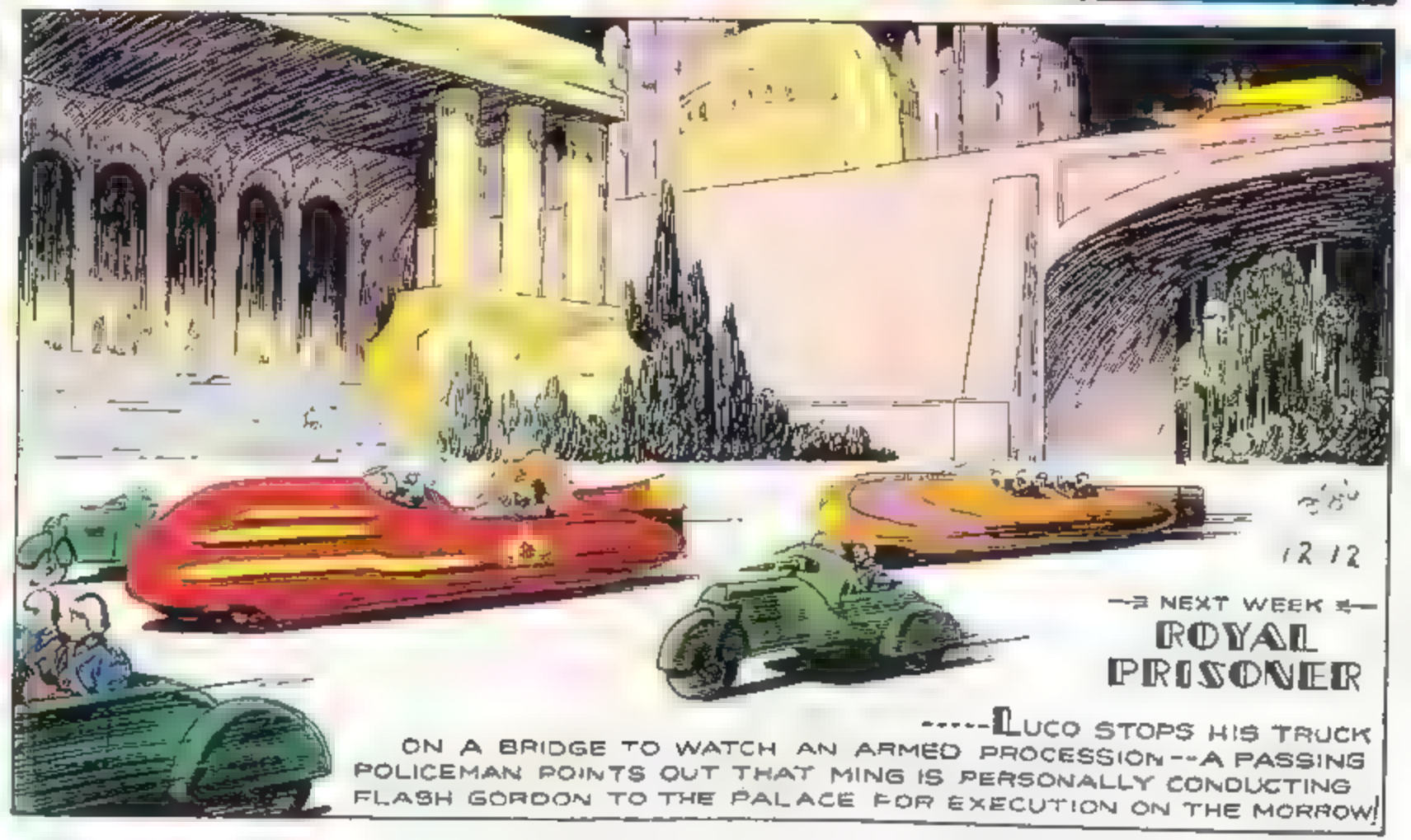

LEAVING THE KIND DOCTOR BONO IN SAFETY, FLASH FLEES THROUGH THE DARKENED HOSPITAL CORRIDORS----AN INTERNE GIVES THE ALARM!--
HELP! FLASH GORDON IS ESCAPING! GUARDS! GUARDS!
NEXT WEEK:--TRAPPED


WITH THE HOSPITAL THROWN INTO CONFUSION BY A SHORT CIRCUIT, FLASH MAKES A BOLD ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE--MING'S GUARDS FIND HIM ABOUT AS EASY TO STOP AS GREASED LIGHTNING!
FLASH KNOCKS OUT THE GUARD AND SEIZES HIS RIFLE--ONLY TO RUN INTO AN EMERGENCY SQUAD!
HIS ESCAPE CUT OFF, FLASH DOUBLES BACK, ONLY TO ENCOUNTER ANOTHER GROUP OF GUARDS--FLASH'S THUDDING FISTS TAKE THEIR TOLL--BUT HE IS FINALLY BROUGHT DOWN BY A WELL-AIMED BLOW FROM THE REAR----
HURRY UP, FOOL! MING WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE--
IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED TO HELP ME, YOU MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED--I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, FLASH
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE SAFE, DR. BONO
MEANWHILE, DALE, AURA AND ZARKOV APPROACH THE WALLS OF MINGO--
HOW CAN WE GET INTO THE CITY?
WE MUST DISGUISE OURSELVES--AURA, ESPECIALLY, MIGHT BE RECOGNIZED AS MING'S DAUGHTER--
WHAT ARE YE DOIN' IN MY GRAIN-FIELD? DON'T MOVE OR I'LL SHOOT! MARCH UP TO MY HOUSE NOW--SLOW-LIKE!
HOW DARE YOU, YOKEL!
PLEASE, AURA--TAKE IT EASY!
TRAPPED! AND I CAN'T RISK THE GIRLS' LIVES BY MAKING A BREAK FOR IT!
NEXT WEEK
UNDER FALSE COLORS





THAT NIGHT---LUCO, THE FARMER, DRIVES HIS FRIENDS, WHO ARE DISGUISED AS PEASANTS, TO MINGO----



-----LUCO STOPS HIS TRUCK ON A BRIDGE TO WATCH AN ARMED PROCESSION--A PASSING POLICEMAN POINTS OUT THAT MING IS PERSONALLY CONDUCTING FLASH GORDON TO THE PALACE FOR EXECUTION ON THE MORROW!

WITH FLASH DOOMED TO IMMEDIATE EXECUTION, HIS WOULD-BE RESCUERS HOLD A COUNCIL OF WAR ON LUCO'S FARM TRUCK------

I SHALL GO DIRECT TO MY FATHER-- MING SIMPLY *MUST* LISTEN TO ME!

IF I ONLY HAD A HANDFUL OF MEN--

MY DEAR, YOU ARE VERY BRAVE

WELL, I KNOW A FEW FELLOWS WHO DON'T LIKE MING ANY BETTER THAN I DO--I'LL ROUND 'EM UP---

AURA IS CHALLENGED AT ONE OF THE PALACE GATES-------

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING, WENCH? BACK TO YOUR PIGSTY!

WATCH YOUR TONGUE, VARLET! ON YOUR KNEES! I AM QUEEN AURA!

THE PALACE IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN TO ROBE AURA PROPERLY FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH MING-------

YOU SURPRISE ME, DAUGHTER--WHY HAVE YOU COME UNANNOUNCED INTO MY KINGDOM?

I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM ARBORIA TO BEG YOU TO SPARE FLASH GORDON--YOU'LL BREAK THE HEARTS OF MY HUSBAND AND MY DEAREST FRIEND, DALE

HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE WITH MY IMPERIAL WILL? YOU NEVER USED TO BE SUCH A SENTIMENTAL FOOL--I SWEAR, BY TAO, THE MAN SHALL DIE THIS NOON!--AND NO ONE ON MONGO CAN STOP ME!

CRUELER THAN I EVER BELIEVED---AN INHUMAN BEAST!--AND TO THINK THAT FATE MADE YOU MY FATHER!

12 19

THANK YOU FOR TRYING TO HELP ME, AURA--TELL DALE I LOVE HER

GOODBYE, FLASH, GOODBYE--I DID MY BEST---

MING ORDERS AN ARMED GUARD TO ESCORT AURA BACK TO HER KINGDOM--

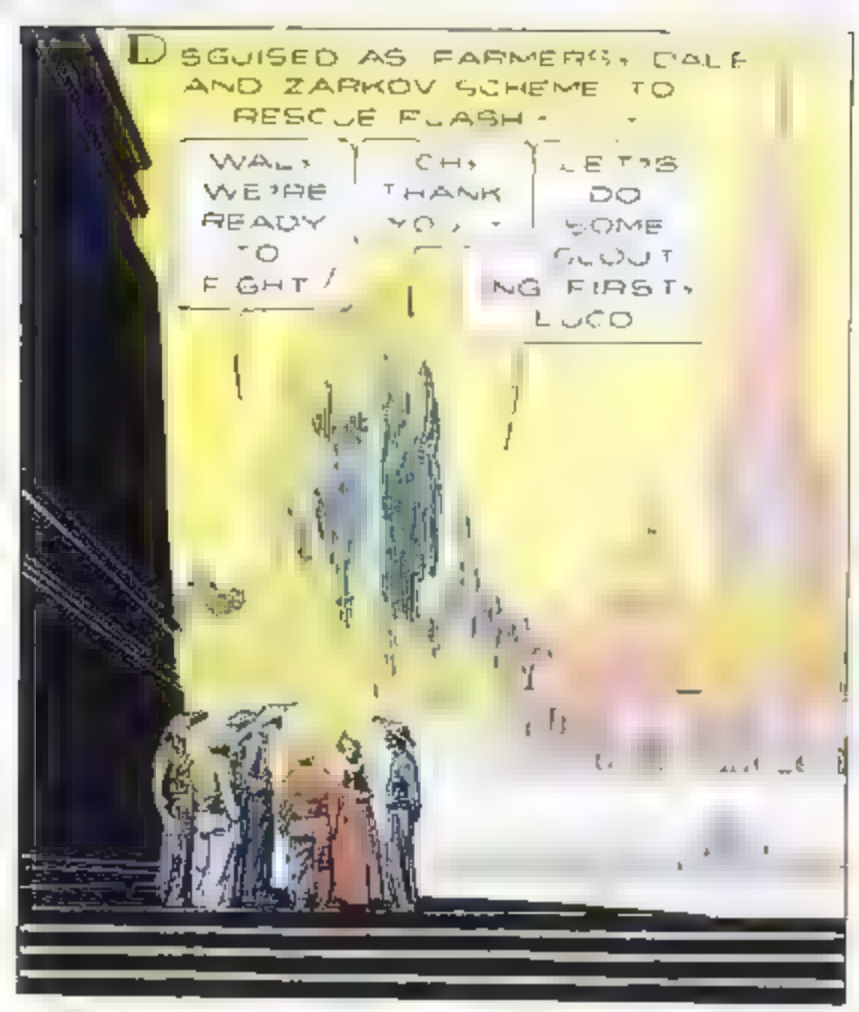
LOOK! AURA IS UNDER GUARD--SHE MUST HAVE FAILED!

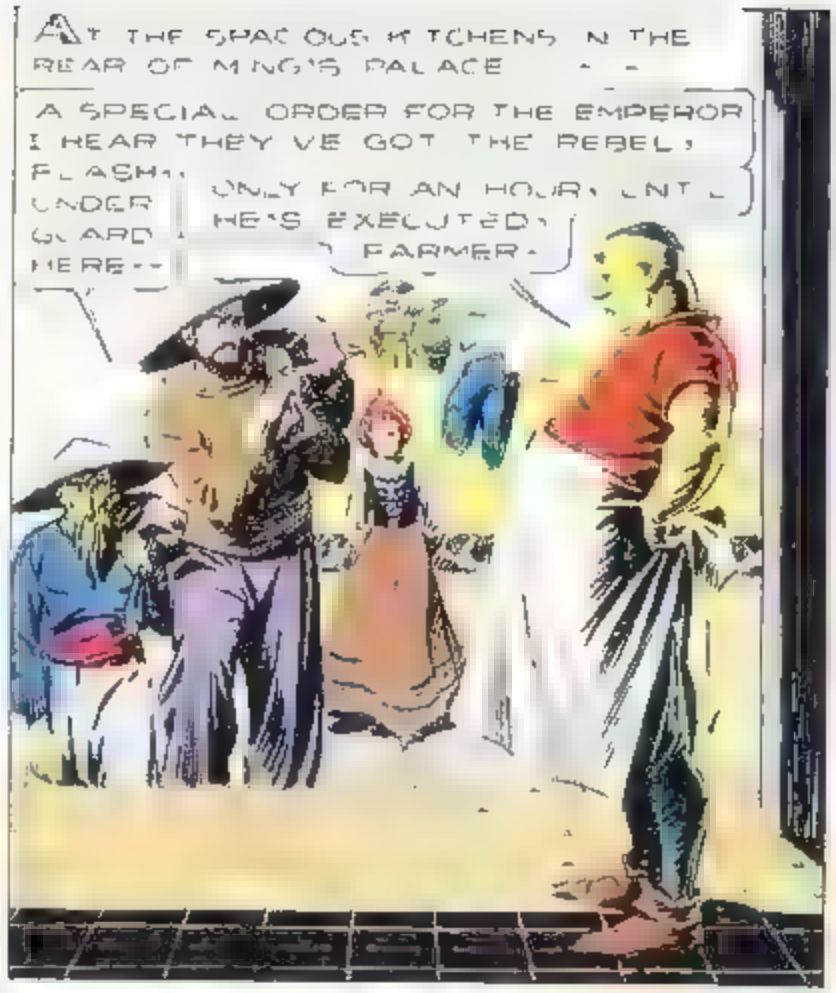
BE BRAVE, DALE!

DALE AND ZARKOV SEE AURA TAKEN TO THE ROCKET FIELD------

NEXT WEEK

AN HOUR TO LIVE


DISGUISED AS FARMERS, DALE AND ZARKOV SCHEME TO RESCUE FLASH - -
WAL, WE'RE READY TO FIGHT!
OH, THANK YOU, -
LET'S DO SOME SCOUTING FIRST, LUCO


AT THE SPACIOUS KITCHENS IN THE REAR OF MING'S PALACE - -
A SPECIAL ORDER FOR THE EMPEROR I HEAR THEY'VE GOT THE REBEL, FLASH, UNDER GUARD HERE--
ONLY FOR AN HOUR, UNTIL HE'S EXECUTED, FARMER.

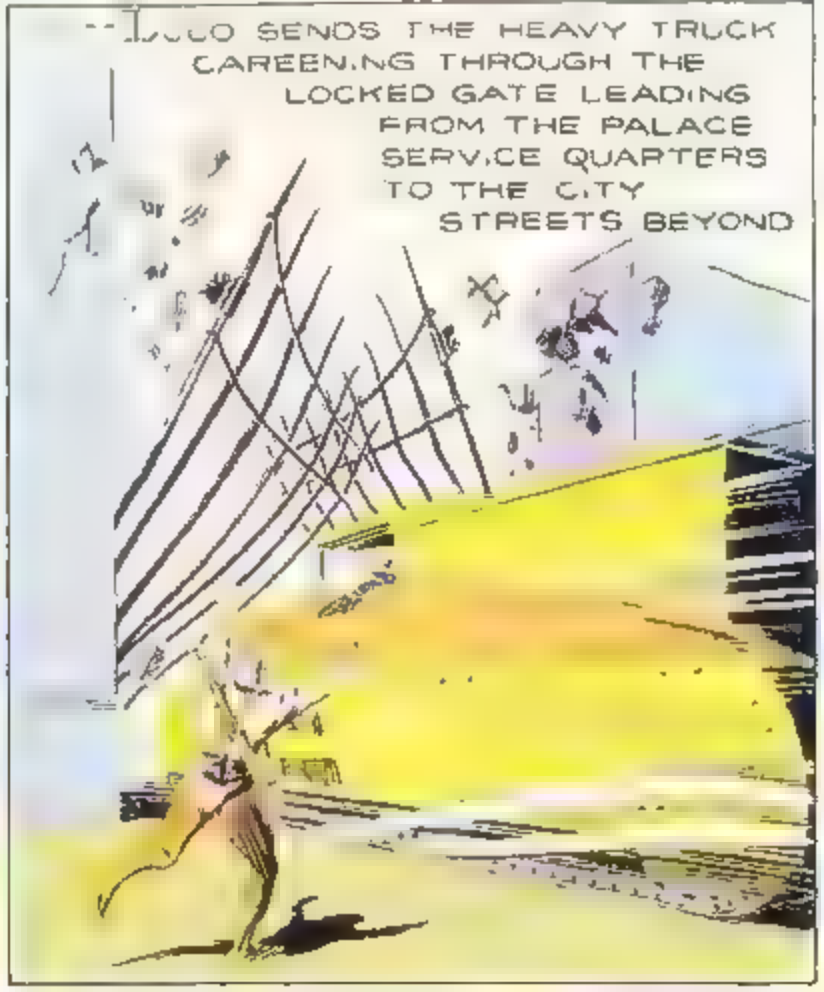
SO YOU WANT TO LOOK AT THE REBEL, EH? WELL, MAYBE I COULD ARRANGE IT IF I WAS TEMPTED --
I EXPECTED AS MUCH - WOULD THREE GOLD MINGOLS TEMPT YOU?

BRIBING THEIR WAY INTO THE PALACE CELL-BLOCK, THE "FARMERS" RUSH FLASH'S GUARDS------
HALT!

THE OFFICER DROPS HIS ARM---DEADLY RAYS LEAP FROM WALL JETS AND CRISS-CROSS THE ROOM!

BUT DALE, ZARKOV AND LUCO--WHO WERE BRINGING UP THE REAR IN THE CHARGE--MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPE THE MURDEROUS RAYS!------
OH, THOSE POOR MEN! WE'VE FAILED, ZARKOV, WE'VE FAILED!
NEVER MIND THAT--KEEP RUNNING! THERE'S HOPE FOR FLASH AS LONG AS WE ARE ALIVE!
NEXT WEEK
DEATH MARCH!

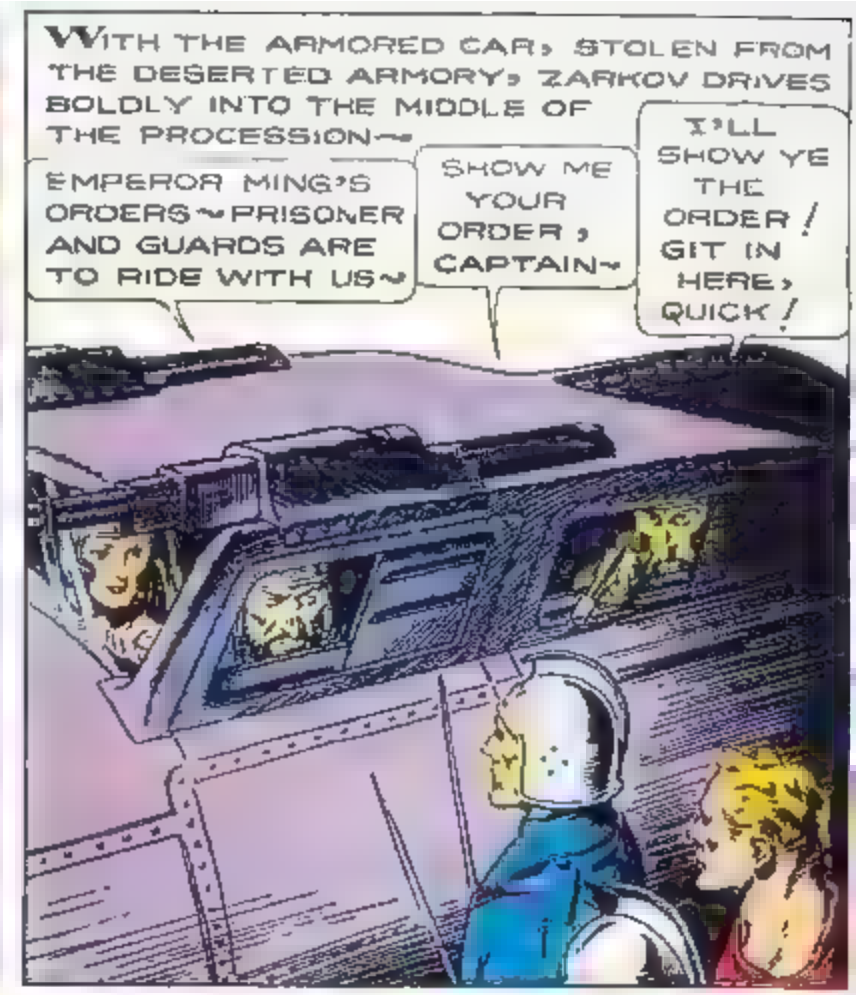
THE DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO RESCUE FLASH FROM IMPENDING EXECUTION HAS FAILED-------
RUN FOR THE TRUCK. IT'S OUR LAST CHANCE!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WE DIDN'T SAVE FLASH!

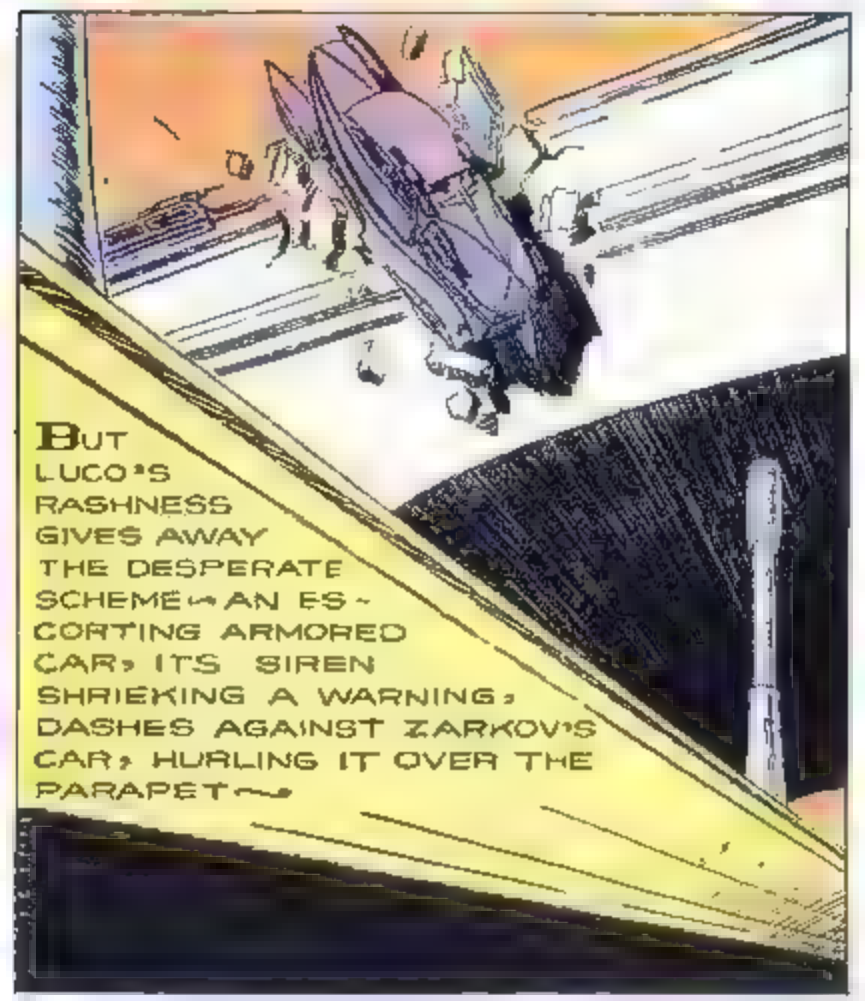

--LUCO SENDS THE HEAVY TRUCK CAREENING THROUGH THE LOCKED GATE LEADING FROM THE PALACE SERVICE QUARTERS TO THE CITY STREETS BEYOND

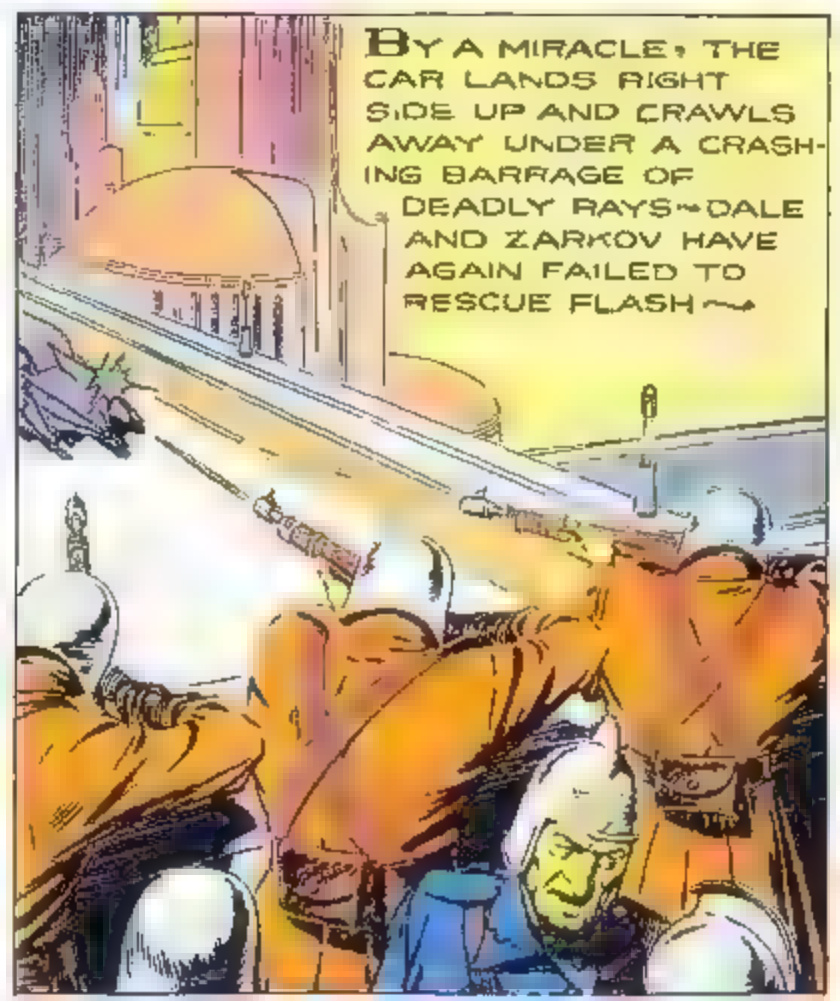
GREAT TAO, ZARKOV. THIS IS AN ARMORY!
THEY DASH INTO AN OPEN DRIVEWAY, LEAP FROM THE TRUCK AND SLAM THE GATES SHUT---
GOOD! WITH LUCK, WE CAN GET SOME ARMY UNIFORMS

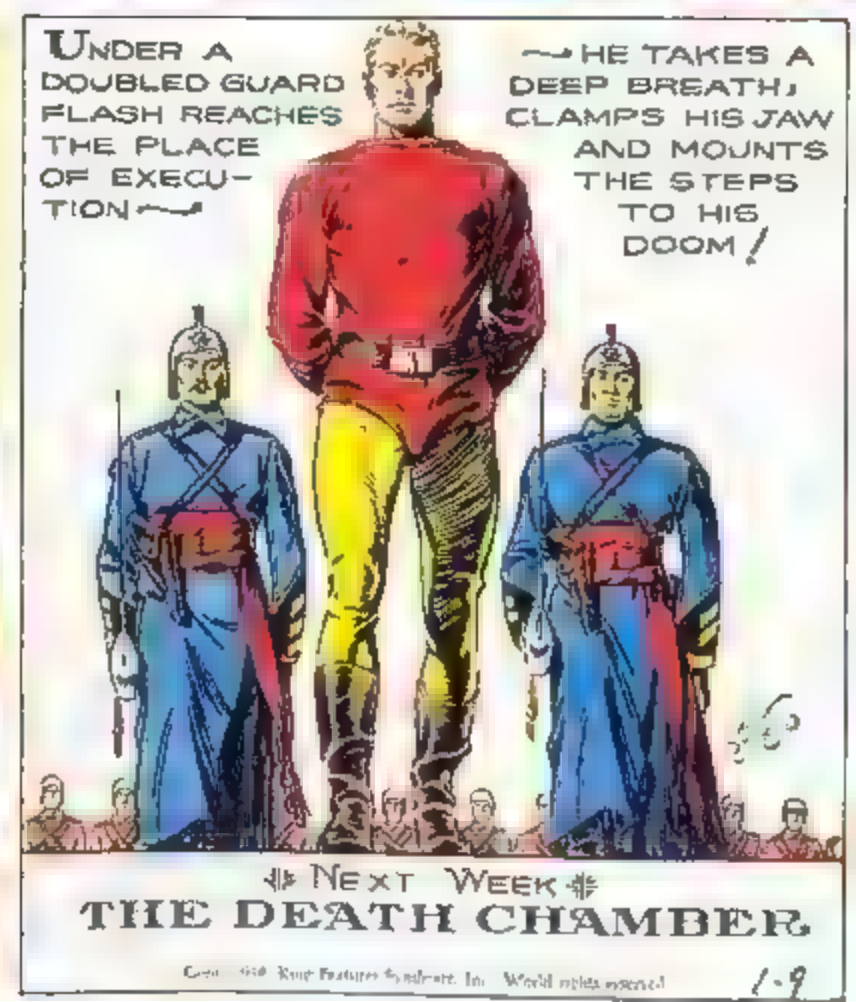
BACK IN MING'S PALACE---THE EMPEROR HAS A LAST WORD WITH HIS PRISONER---
FLASH GORDON, IN HALF AN HOUR YOU WILL BE IN YOUR GRAVE! YOUR DEATH WILL MARK THE END OF ALL REVOLT ON MONGO!
GENERAL, TAKE HIM AWAY!
1-2

----THE SLOW MARCH OF DEATH BEGINS--
BUT THE THRONG THAT LINES THE WAY IS STRANGELY SILENT, FOR IF FLASH GORDON DIES, THEIR ONLY HOPE OF FREEDOM FROM MING'S TYRANNY DIES ALSO!----------
NEXT WEEK
A DARING TRICK









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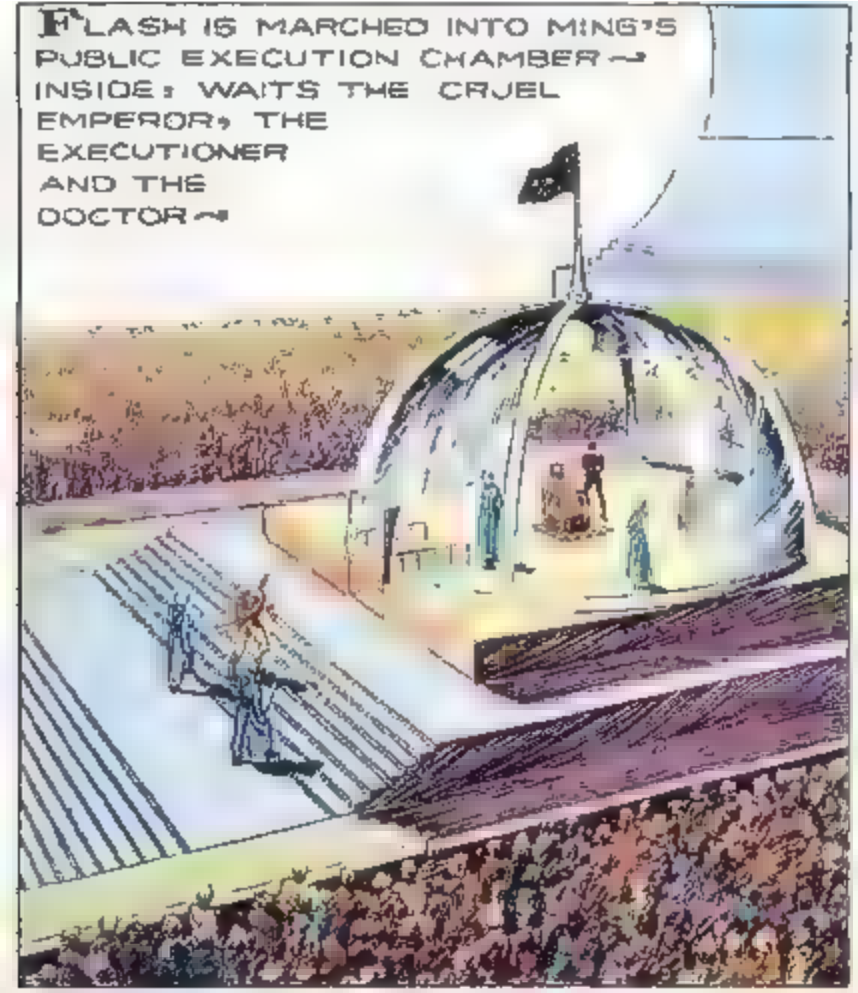
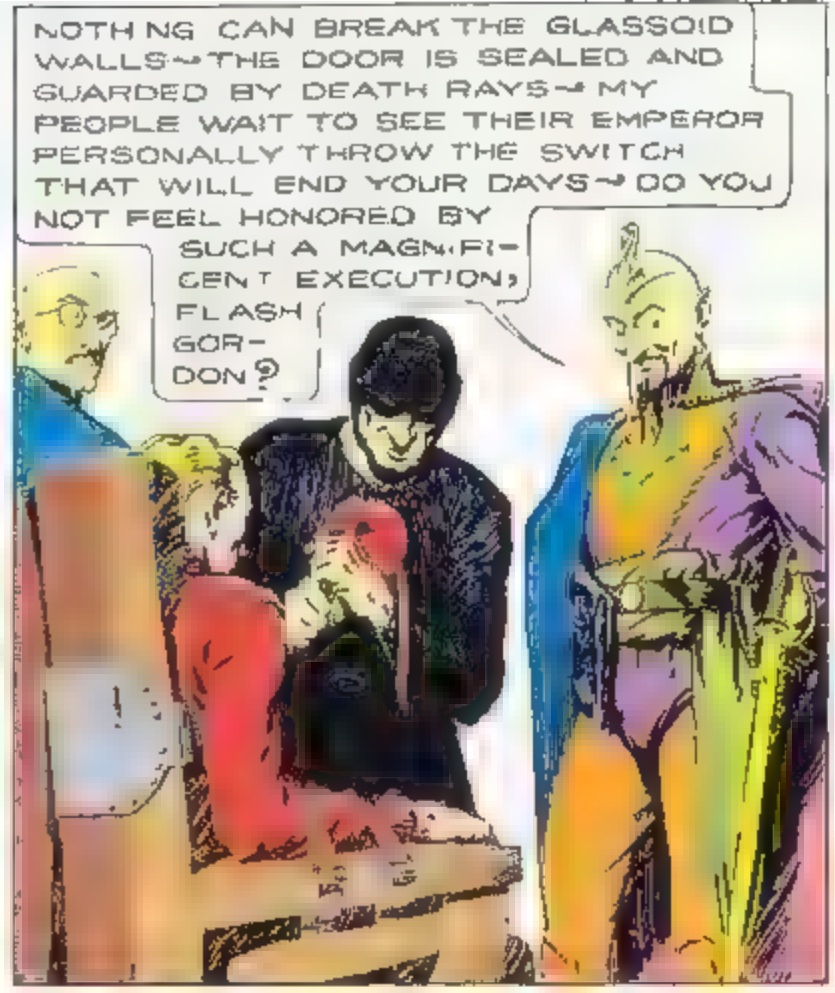
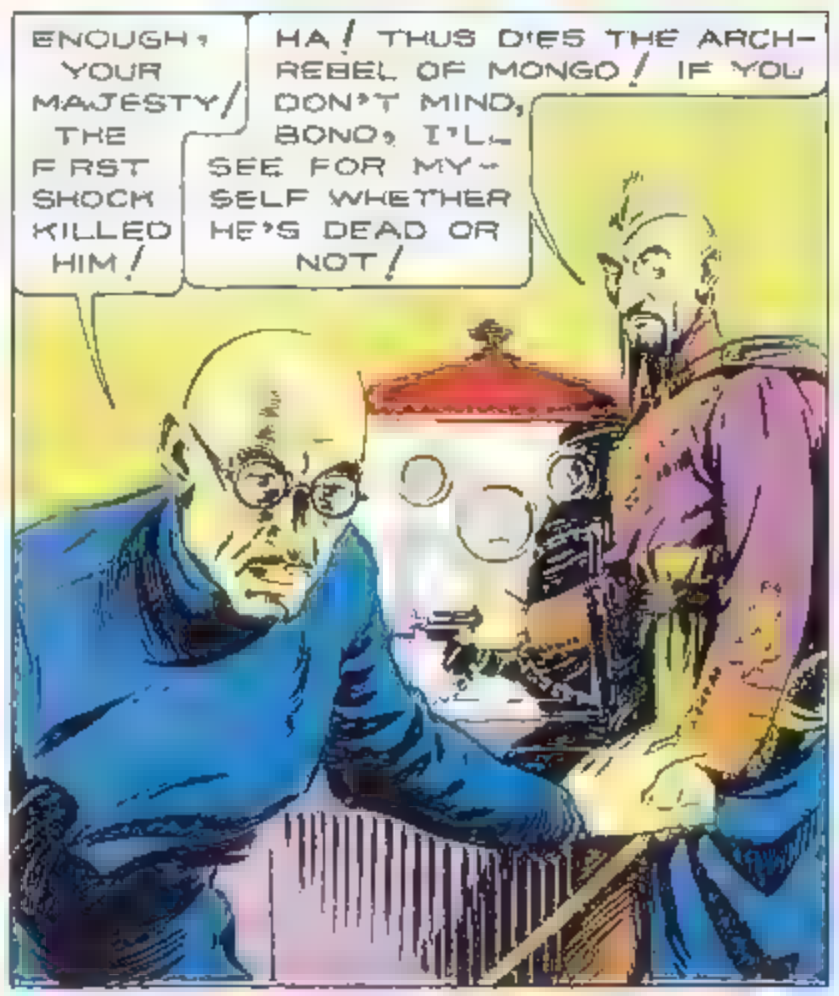
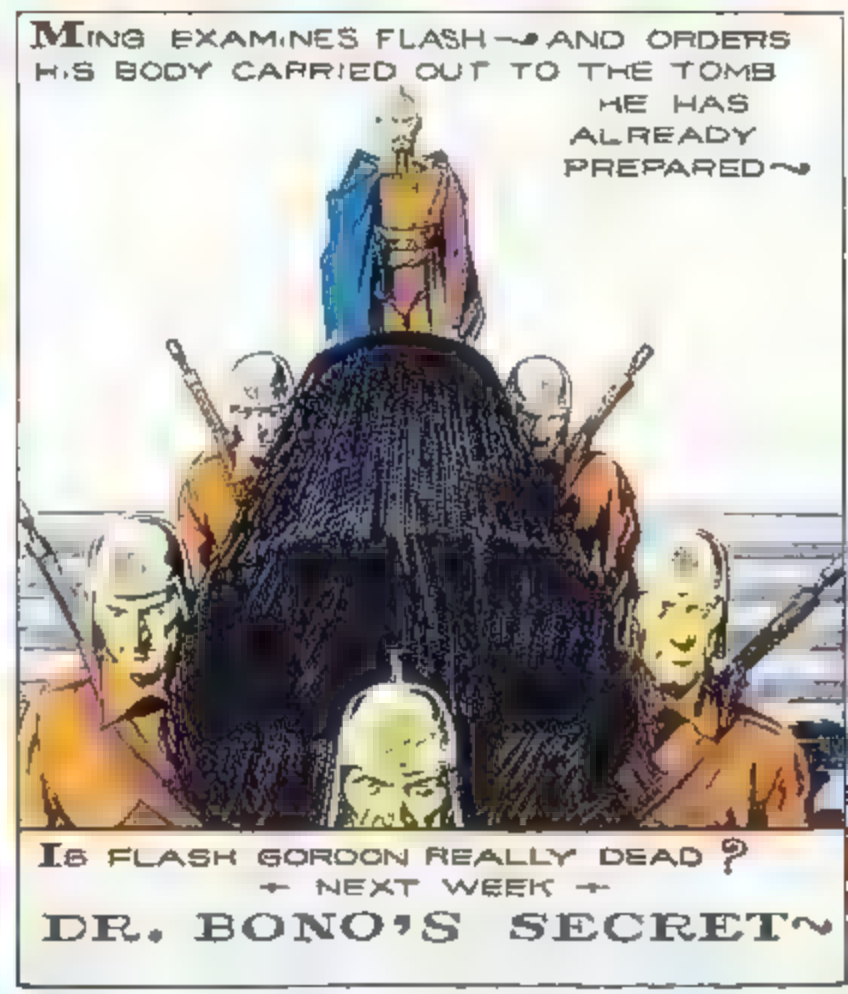

FLASH IS MARCHED INTO MING'S PUBLIC EXECUTION CHAMBER ~ INSIDE: WAITS THE CRUEL EMPEROR, THE EXECUTIONER AND THE DOCTOR ~


NOTHING CAN BREAK THE GLASSOID WALLS ~ THE DOOR IS SEALED AND GUARDED BY DEATH RAYS ~ MY PEOPLE WAIT TO SEE THEIR EMPEROR PERSONALLY THROW THE SWITCH THAT WILL END YOUR DAYS ~ DO YOU NOT FEEL HONORED BY SUCH A MAGNIFICENT EXECUTION, FLASH GORDON?

PRETENDING TO ADJUST FLASH'S HEAD-PIECE, DOCTOR BONO LEANS CLOSE ~
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR ME, FLASH ~ I MUST REPAY IT ~ HERE. QUICK, SWALLOW THIS PILL!

A SWELLING MURMUR OF SYMPATHY FOR THE REBEL ROLLS OVER THE CROWD AS MING THROWS THE SWITCH! WITH AN AGONIZED MOAN, DALE COLLAPSES INTO ZARKOV'S ARMS!


ENOUGH, YOUR MAJESTY! THE FIRST SHOCK KILLED HIM!
HA! THUS DIES THE ARCH-REBEL OF MONGO! IF YOU DON'T MIND, BONO, I'LL SEE FOR MYSELF WHETHER HE'S DEAD OR NOT!


MING EXAMINES FLASH ~ AND ORDERS HIS BODY CARRIED OUT TO THE TOMB HE HAS ALREADY PREPARED ~
IS FLASH GORDON REALLY DEAD?
← NEXT WEEK →
DR. BONO'S SECRET ~

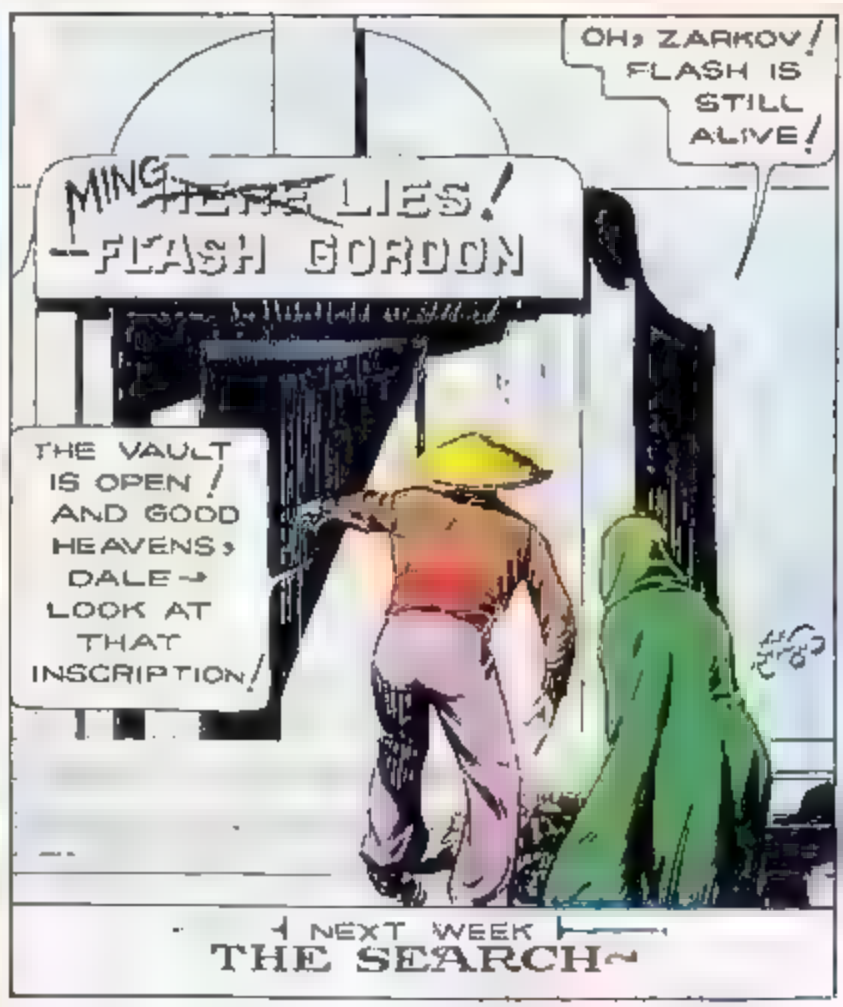
FLASH GORDON, EXECUTED BY MING THE MERCILESS, HAS BEEN PLACED IN A VAULT AS A WARNING TO ALL MING'S MANY ENEMIES~

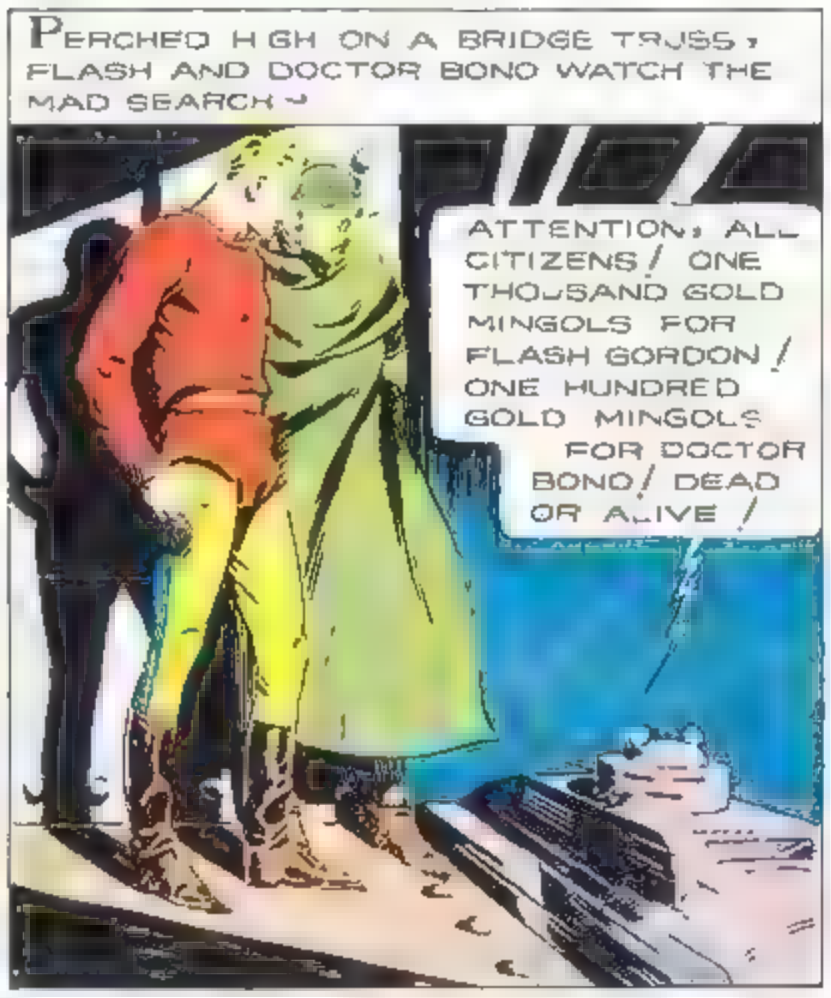
LATE THAT NIGHT, A FURTIVE FIGURE APPROACHES THE TOMB~

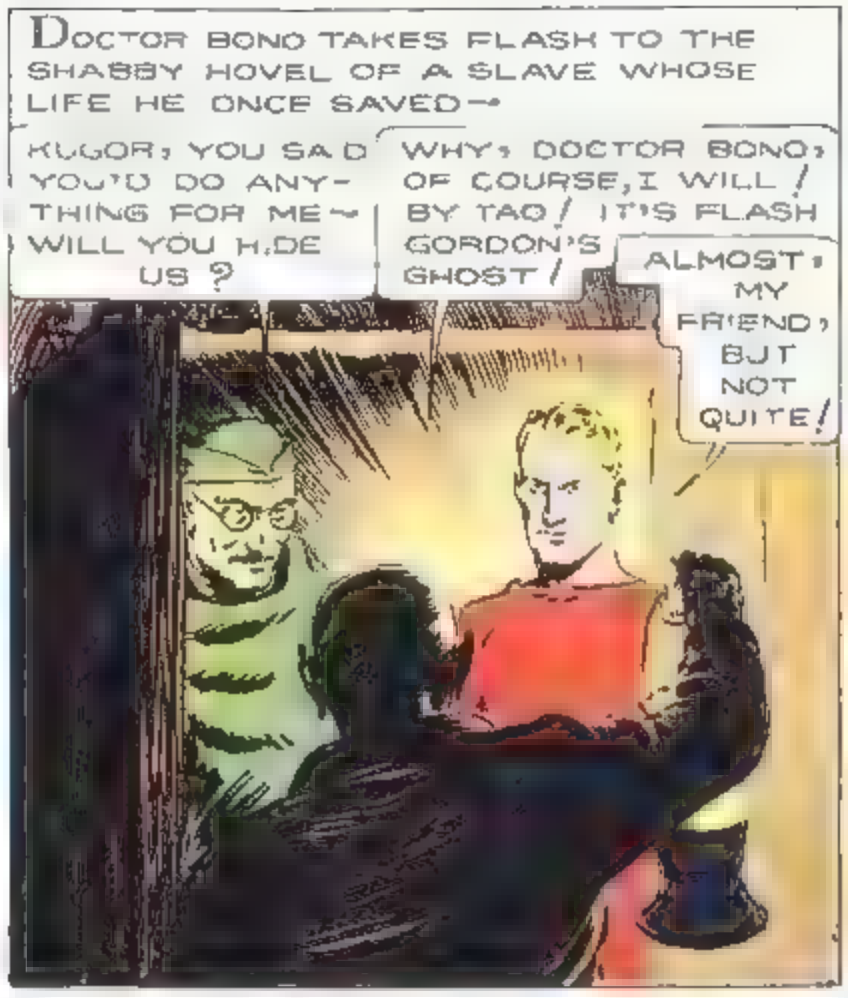
DOCTOR BONO INJECTS A POWERFUL ANTIDOTE INTO FLASH'S BODY~

IT'S LIKE COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD, DOCTOR BONO~ I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT I'M GRATEFUL~
THANK TAO, IT WORKED, FLASH~ I GAVE YOU A PILL THAT PUT YOU INTO A COMA JUST BEFORE MING TURNED ON THE CURRENT~ I STOPPED HIM BEFORE YOU GOT THE FULL SHOCK~ HE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD~

WE MUST CARRY ON HIS WORK, DALE~ THAT IS WHAT FLASH WOULD HAVE WISHED~
YES, ZARKOV~ BUT WE MUST--SAY --GOODBYE TO HIM FIRST~
LATER~ ZARKOV AND THE HEART-BROKEN DALE STEAL OFF TO THE TOMB TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS TO THEIR BELOVED DEAD~


OH, ZARKOV! FLASH IS STILL ALIVE!
MING ~~HERE~~ LIES! --FLASH GORDON
THE VAULT IS OPEN! AND GOOD HEAVENS, DALE~ LOOK AT THAT INSCRIPTION!
NEXT WEEK
THE SEARCH~





A PATROL OF MING'S POLICE POUNDS ON THE DOOR OF KUGOR'S SHACK~

NEXT WEEK

~THE DRAG-NET TIGHTENS

THE CITY-WIDE SEARCH FOR FLASH TRAPS DALE AND ZARKOV~

SO YOU'RE JUST VISITING THE CITY? A LIKELY STORY! TAKE THEM TO THE DUNGEONS AS SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS!

BUT WE'VE DONE NOTHING! HAVE MERCY!

DON'T TALK~ THEY DON'T SUSPECT WHO WE ARE~

THEY ARE TAKEN TO THE GREAT ESCAPE-PROOF UNDERGROUND JAIL~

BUT WHY ARE WE ARRESTED?

WE'RE LOCKING UP EVERY STRANGER IN MINGO

~THAT WAY, WE'LL CATCH FLASH GORDON~ AFTER WE CATCH HIM, WE WILL LET YOU GO IF YOU CAN PROVE WHO YOU ARE~

NOT EVEN A RAT COULD GET THROUGH ALIVE!

MING'S ARMY SURROUNDS THE HUGE CITY WALLS WITH ELECTRIC-EYE DEATH RAYS!

MEANWHILE, DEEP IN AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL~

THESE ARE THE OLD SEWERS, ABANDONED AND FORGOTTEN WHEN MING'S FATHER REBUILT THE CITY~

~AND YOU SAY HUNDREDS OF OUTLAWS USE THEM AS HIDEOUTS?

DAMP~ AND NOT VERY HEALTHFUL~ BUT A HEALTHY PLACE FOR US RIGHT NOW, KUGOR!

SUDDENLY, THEY COME TO A GREAT VAULTED CHAMBER~ THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE~ THEN THE OUTLAWS LEAP TO THEIR FEET AND ROAR A MIGHTY WELCOME TO FLASH GORDON, THEIR CHAMPION!

NEXT WEEK: THE SECRET BAND!

FLASH FINDS REFUGE WITH THE CITY'S OUTLAWS, DEEP IN THE ANCIENT SEWERS ~

IF THE REWARD MING OFFERS FOR FLASH AND DOCTOR BONO SHOULD TEMPT ANY OF YOU, REMEMBER WHAT WE DO TO TRAITORS /

THIS MAP SHOWS THE CITY AND ALL OUR HIDDEN TUNNELS ~

I HAVE NEWS THAT MING HAS THROWN MY SISTER, SONJA, AND MANY OTHERS, INTO HIS DUNGEONS IN THE HOPE OF SNARING YOU, FLASH ~

DALE AND ZARKOV MAY BE AMONG THEM ~ LET'S FREE THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE /

THE LEADERS, KUGOR, COUNT BULOK AND FLASH PLAN THEIR CAMPAIGN ~

THIS IS THE NEAREST POINT TO THE DUNGEONS ~

FIRST TIME I EVER TRIED TO BREAK *INTO* JAIL /

SO YOU CAN'T FIND ANY TRACE OF FLASH, EH? BY TAO, YOU'LL FIND HIM TODAY OR DIE / GET OUT OF HERE /

THE CHIEF OF POLICE REPORTS TO MING ~

NO, NONE OF THIS LOT IS FLASH OR BONO ~ BUT, SA-A-Y-- THIS IS A PRETTY WENCH / BRING HER TO MY OFFICE /

OH, NO /

HONG, THE EVIL LORD OF THE DUNGEONS, INSPECTS HIS NEW PRISONERS ~

COME ON, LITTLE ONE, YOU CAN'T KEEP HONG WAITING /

YOU ~ YOU PIG / I'LL SCRATCH YOUR EYES OUT /

NEXT WEEK

INSIDE DUNGEON WALLS

2-13

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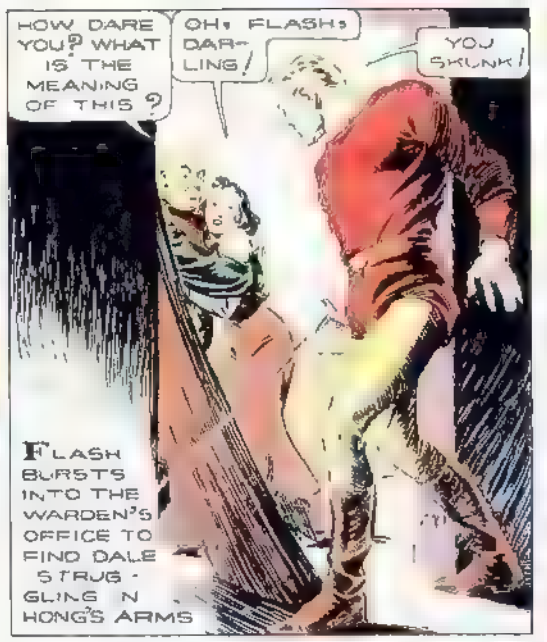
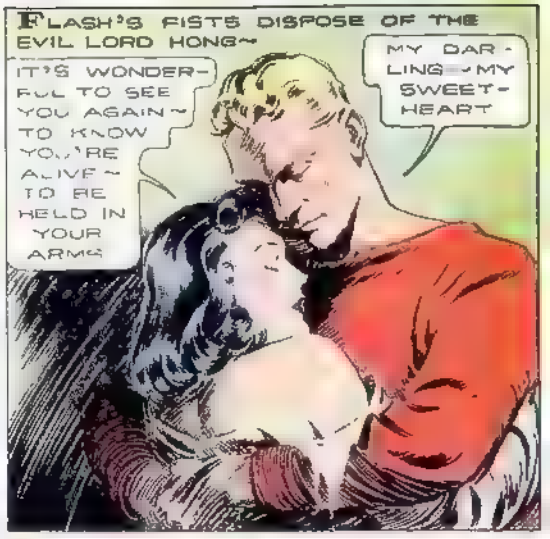
FLASH LEADS HIS OUTLAW BAND IN A DARING RAID, UNDERGROUND, ON MING'S DUNGEONS~

SILENTLY, THE SLABS OF STONE ARE CLEARED AWAY, AND THE OUTLAWS EMERGE INTO ONE OF THE DIMLY LIGHTED COURTS OF THE DUNGEONS~





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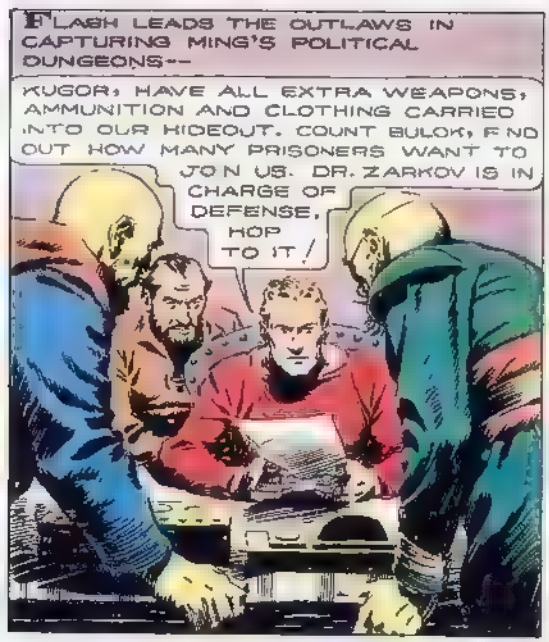
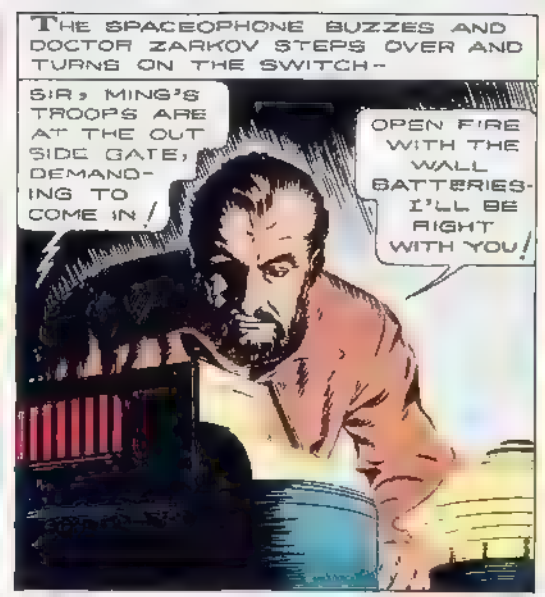
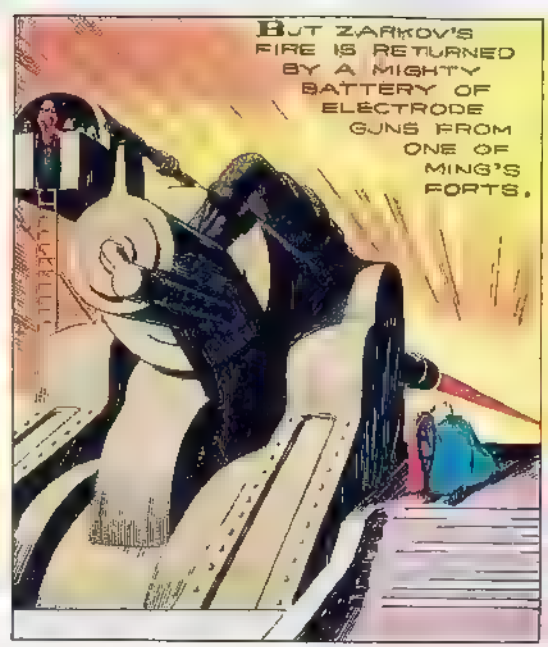

FLASH LEADS THE OUTLAWS IN CAPTURING MING'S POLITICAL DUNGEONS--
KUGOR, HAVE ALL EXTRA WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND CLOTHING CARRIED INTO OUR HIDEOUT. COUNT BULOK, FIND OUT HOW MANY PRISONERS WANT TO JOIN US. DR. ZARKOV IS IN CHARGE OF DEFENSE, HOP TO IT!


THE SPACEPHONE BUZZES AND DOCTOR ZARKOV STEPS OVER AND TURNS ON THE SWITCH-
SIR, MING'S TROOPS ARE AT THE OUTSIDE GATE, DEMANDING TO COME IN!
OPEN FIRE WITH THE WALL BATTERIES- I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!


BUT ZARKOV'S FIRE IS RETURNED BY A MIGHTY BATTERY OF ELECTRODE GUNS FROM ONE OF MING'S FORTS.

FLASH COMMANDS A RETREAT INTO THE TUNNEL--
THE TRAP IS SET, FLASH--
FINE! SOUND THE RETREAT!

WHEN THE PRISON GUNS FALL SILENT, MING'S TROOPS RUSH IN--ONLY TO BE MET BY A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION!

DEEP IN THE TUNNEL, THE EXPLOSION ECHOES--
THE BLAST WILL HIDE OUR TUNNEL ENTRANCE. NOW TO THE MEETING-PLACE TO PLAN OUR CAMPAIGN.
AND SO ENDS THE TYRANT'S PRISON.
AND I HOPE TO REST A BIT--
YES--WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET ACQUAINTED!
NEXT WEEK:- UNDER-GROUND

FLASH HOLDS A BRIEF COUNCIL OF WAR IN THE OUTLAW'S UNDERGROUND MEETING HALL---

DR. BONO HAS FIXED UP A HOSPITAL FOR THE FEW WHO WERE WOUNDED. PATROLS WILL GUARD ALL THE TUNNEL ENTRANCES AGAINST MING. ZARKOV WILL WORK ON NEW DEFENSIVE WEAPONS.

SEATED ON CUSHIONS AROUND A LOW TABLE, FLASH AND DALE ARE BULOK'S DINNER GUESTS--

DON'T THANK US-- WE FEEL HONORED TO ENTERTAIN SO BEAUTIFUL A LADY AND SO BRAVE A MAN. YOU KNOW, FLASH, YOU'VE BEEN MY HERO EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO MONGO.

YOU MUST NOT BELIEVE ALL THE STORIES YOU HEAR, SONJA.

FED AND RESTED, THE GUESTS ARE SHOWN TO THEIR ROOMS---

YOU'RE EXAGGERATING, DEAR--SHE'S JUST EXCITED OVER HER RESCUE FROM MING.

I TELL YOU, SHE'S THROWING HERSELF AT YOU, AND, LIKE A MAN, YOU LOVE IT-- GOOD NIGHT!

THERE! I FINALLY GOT IT TOGETHER. IT'LL HELP US BORE OUR WAY INTO MING'S FORTS.

NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, FLASH, I HAVE REAL HOPE OF OVERTHROWING THE TYRANT!

FLASH TRIES TO FORGET HIS QUARREL WITH DALE, IN THE NEXT DAY'S ACTIVITIES.

FLASH! BULOK! I'VE TUNED THIS SPACEOPHONE ON MING'S SECRET MILITARY WAVE-LENGTH!

---THE INTERCEPTED BROADCAST.

ATTENTION, ALL ARMY COMMANDERS! MOBILIZE IN FRONT OF THE DUNGEONS. MY SCIENTISTS HAVE LOCATED A SECRET TUNNEL WHICH MUST LEAD TO THE REBELS' LAIR!

3-13 NEXT WEEK TERROR

MING ASSEMBLES HIS ARMY AT THE RUINED PRISON TO CRUSH FLASH AND HIS OUTLAWS --

HERE WAS THE TUNNEL THE REBEL USED, YOUR HIGHNESS --

WE'LL BURN IT OUT WITH THERMITON.

DIG OUT THE DIRT AND STONE AT ONCE!

THE TERRIFIC CHEMICAL HEAT BURNS A HOLE IN THE GROUND---

THE TROOPS POUR OVER THE STILL-SMOKING GROUND, INTO THE TUNNEL---

FLASH AND HIS OUTLAWS DESPERATELY DEFEND THEIR HIDEOUT---

HOLD ON FOR FIVE MINUTES, BULOK.

WE CAN'T STOP THEM ANY LONGER.

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OKAY, ZARKOV-- LET 'ER GO!

IT'S A TRAP! AN INFERNO OF FLAME BLASTS MING'S ARMY!

NEXT WEEK → TROUBLE AHEAD

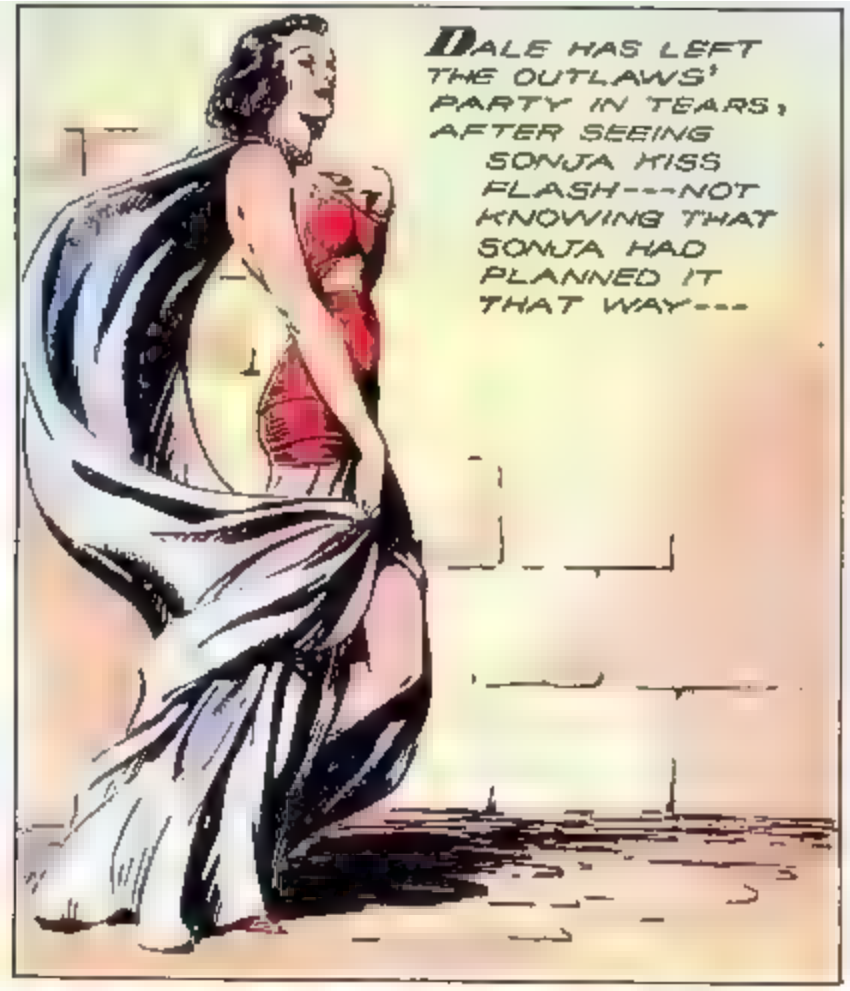
WHILE DALE ASSISTS DR. BONO WITH THE WOUNDED---

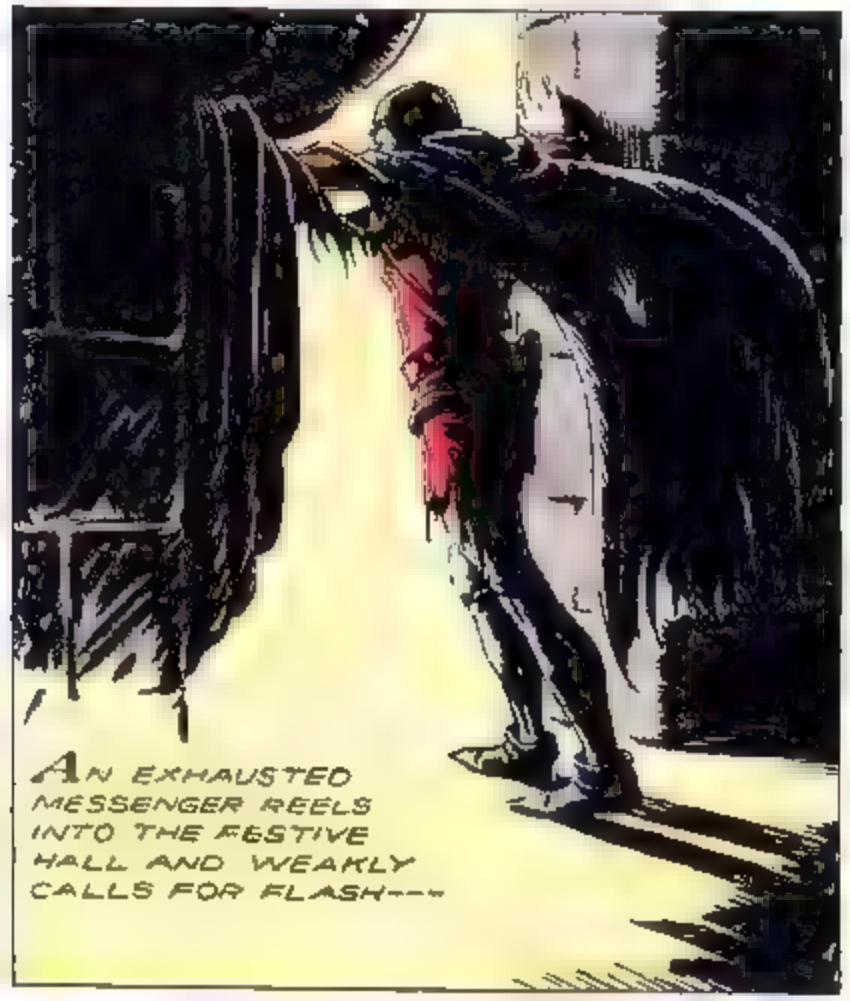
--THE OUTLAWS STAGE A CELEBRATION FOR FLASH AND ZARKOV---
---IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR WORK IN CRUSHING MING'S LATEST ATTACK---

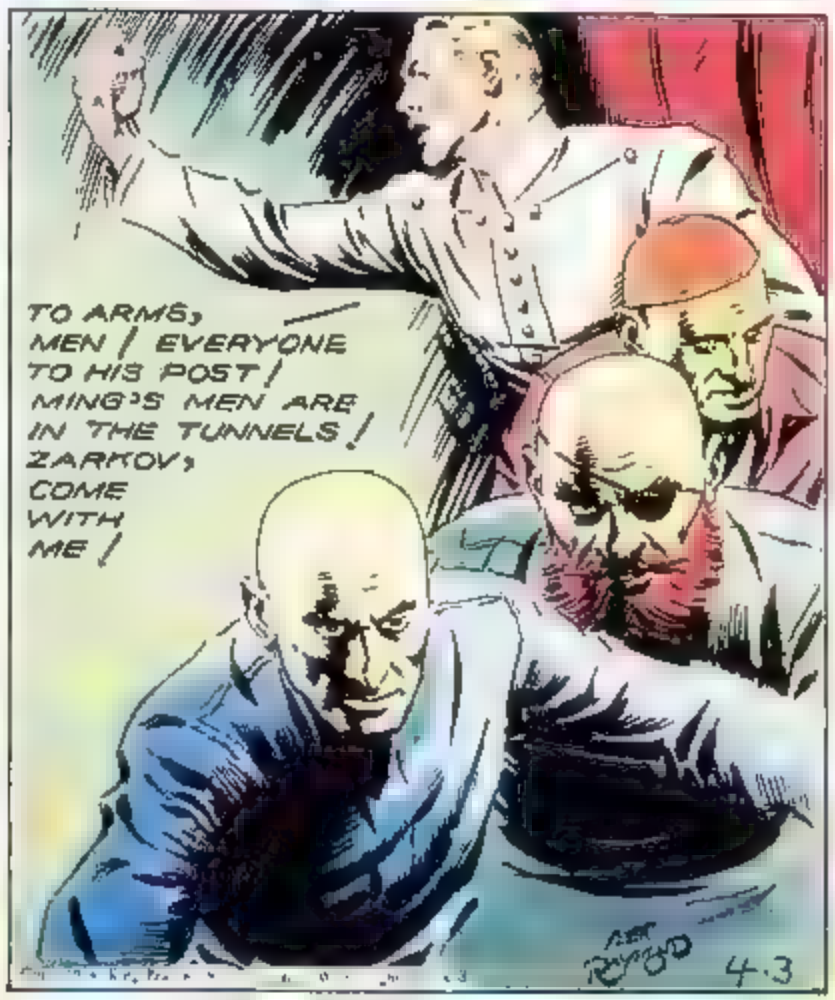
HER WORK FINISHED, DALE GOES TO HER ROOM---
---AND HUMMING HAPPILY TO HERSELF, PREPARES FOR THE CELEBRATION.

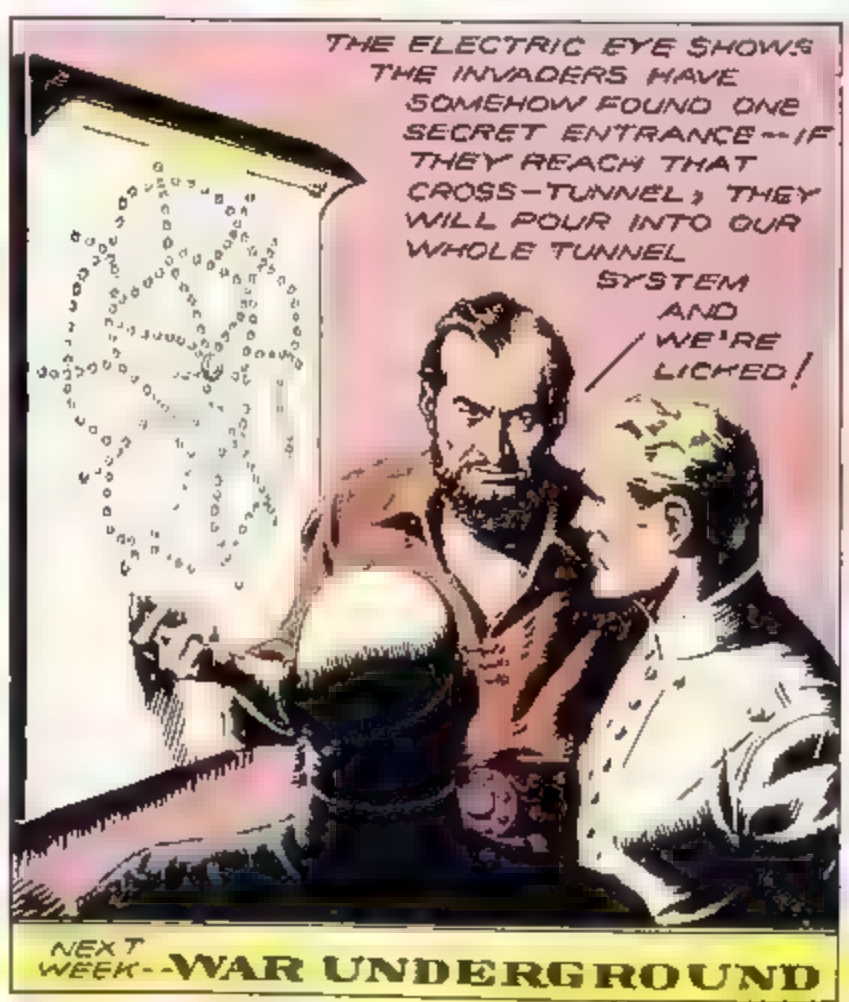
MEANWHILE, SONJA TACTFULLY SEATS FLASH SO THAT HIS BACK FACES THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE DINING-HALL AND, AS SHE SEES DALE APPROACHING, LEANS OVER, AND TO FLASH'S AMAZEMENT, KISSES HIM!

SONJA'S TRICK HAS WORKED. DEEPLY HURT, DALE TURNS HER BACK ON THE FESTIVITIES, AND SOBBING BITTERLY, RETURNS TO HER ROOM.
NEXT WEEK—
THE ALARM



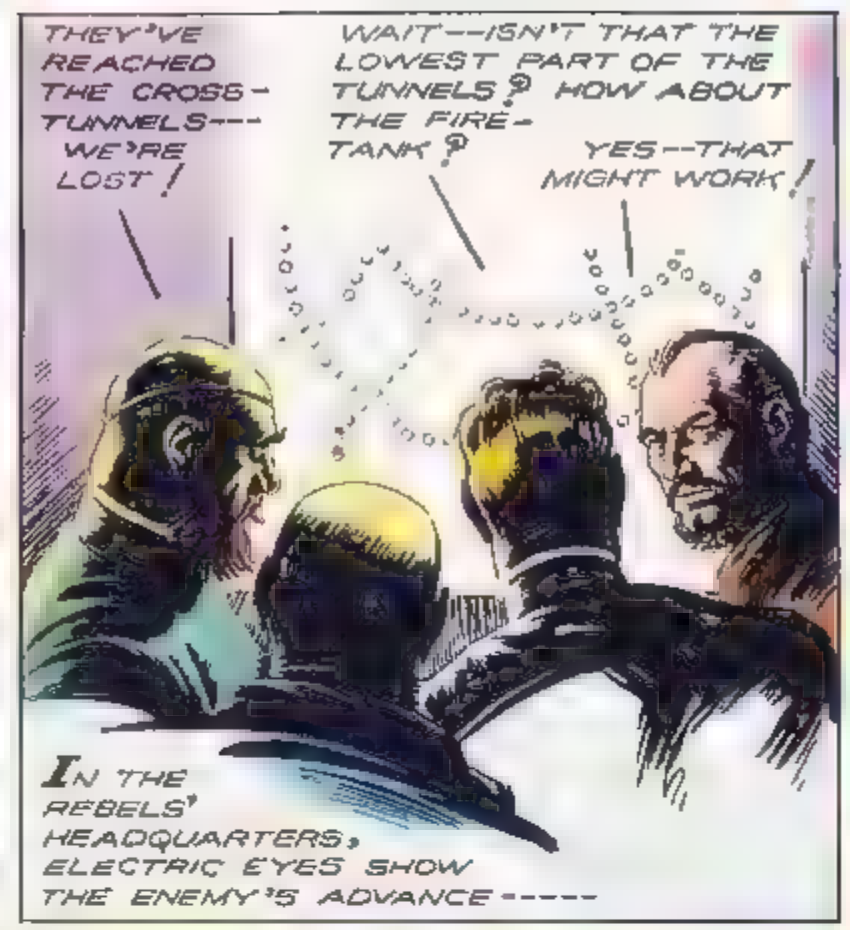






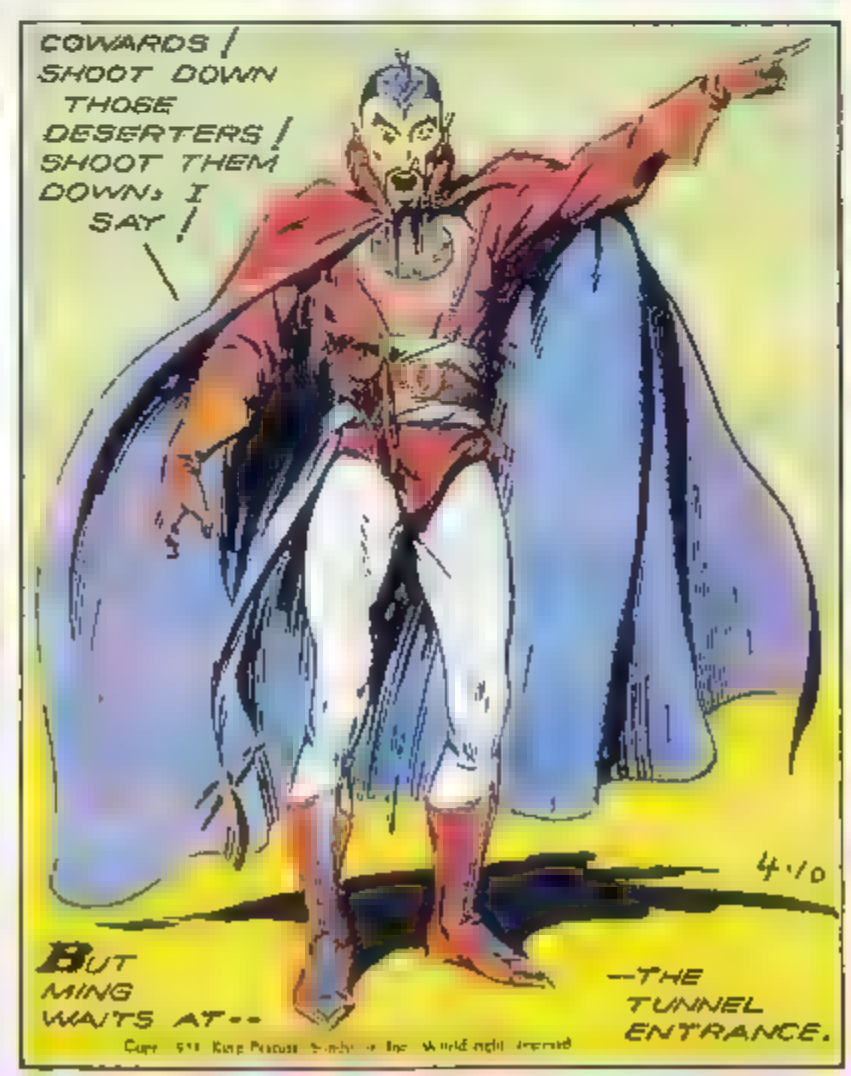
NEXT WEEK--**WAR UNDERGROUND**

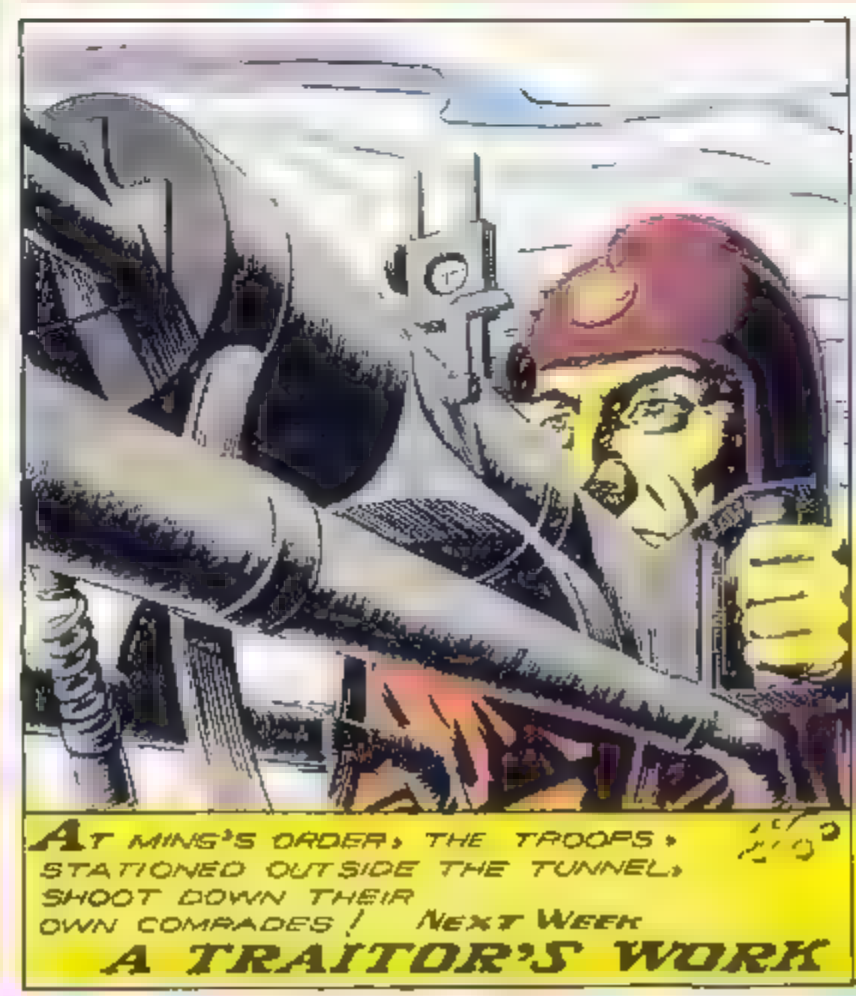
MING'S TROOPS ARE POURING THROUGH THE OUTLAWS' TUNNEL SYSTEM- --


THEY'VE REACHED THE CROSS-TUNNELS--- WE'RE LOST!
WAIT--ISN'T THAT THE LOWEST PART OF THE TUNNELS? HOW ABOUT THE FIRE-TANK?
YES--THAT MIGHT WORK!
IN THE REBELS' HEADQUARTERS, ELECTRIC EYES SHOW THE ENEMY'S ADVANCE-----

UNDER FLASH'S DIRECTION THEY FLOOD THE LOWER TUNNELS WITH LIQUID FIRE----

UNABLE TO STAND THE SEARING HEAT, MING'S SOLDIERS RETREAT IN DISORDER-----


COWARDS! SHOOT DOWN THOSE DESERTERS! SHOOT THEM DOWN, I SAY!
BUT MING WAITS AT--
--THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE.
4-10


AT MING'S ORDER, THE TROOPS, STATIONED OUTSIDE THE TUNNEL, SHOOT DOWN THEIR OWN COMRADES! NEXT WEEK
A TRAITOR'S WORK

A HANDFUL OF MING'S MEN, CUT OFF IN THE CROSS TUNNELS, ARE CAPTURED--

YOU'D HAVE KILLED US, BUT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF HARMING ANY OF YOU--YOU CAN BE PRISONERS OF WAR, OR YOU CAN JOIN OUR OUTLAW BAND!

WE'LL JOIN YOU--GLADLY!

---AND THEN THEY CAME OVER TO OUR SIDE! ISN'T THAT GREAT, DALE? WE'RE SAFE FOR A WHILE NOW!

YOU DID NOBLY, FLASH--BUT HERE'S SONJA—TELL HER ABOUT IT--SHE'LL REWARD YOU WITH ANOTHER KISS---

THE HUSSY!

HM-M!

---THAT KISS, LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING! YOU SHOULDN'T ACT LIKE THIS, DALE--APOLOGIZE TO SONJA AND BULOK--PLEASE!

APOLOGIZE? I SHOULD SAY NOT! LET ME GO! I HATE ALL OF YOU!

WOMEN!

LATE THAT NIGHT, ONE CAPTURED SOLDIER CREEPS TOWARD FLASH'S ROOM, DETERMINED TO KILL HIM FOR THE ONE THOUSAND GOLD MINGOLS OFFERED BY MING, THE MERCILESS--------

BUT DALE, UNABLE TO SLEEP, SEES THE PROWLER THROUGH HER PARTLY-OPEN DOOR--SCREAMING FOR FLASH, SHE LEAPS ACROSS---

---THE HALL AND GRAPPLES WITH HIM!

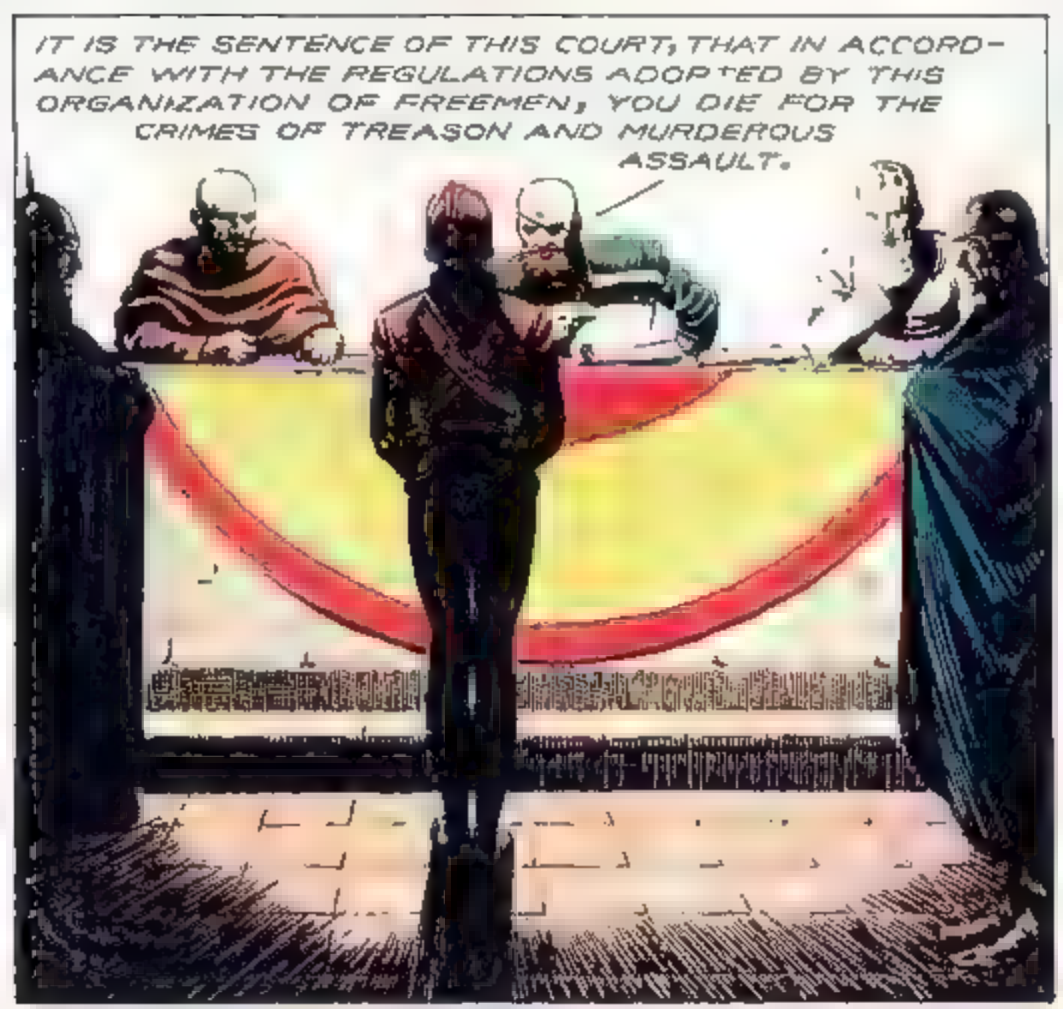
4-17

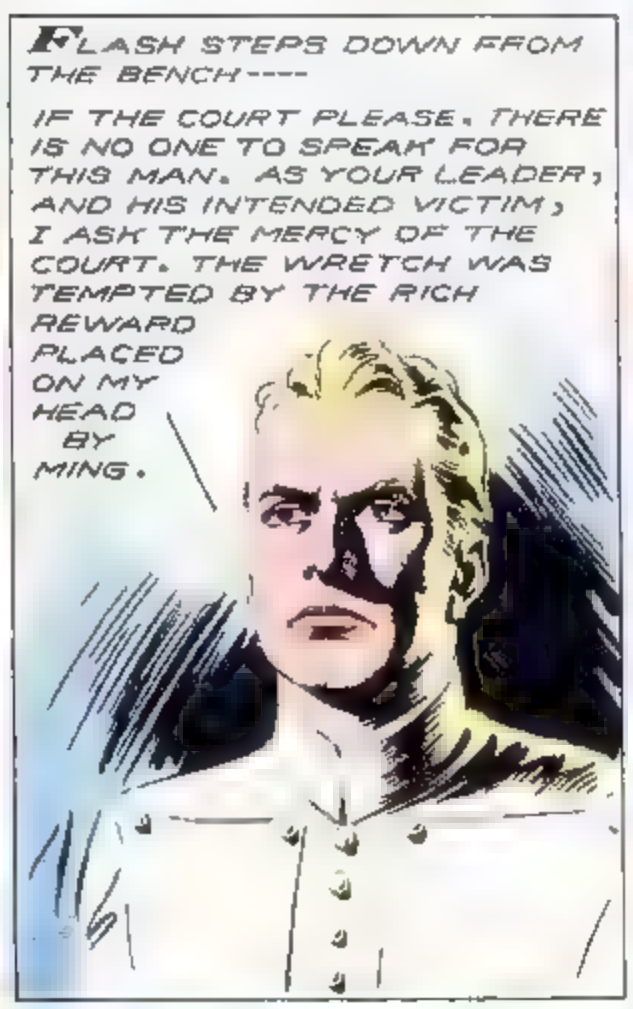
FLASH DASHES TO THE RESCUE AND KNOCKS THE TRAITOR UNCONSCIOUS----

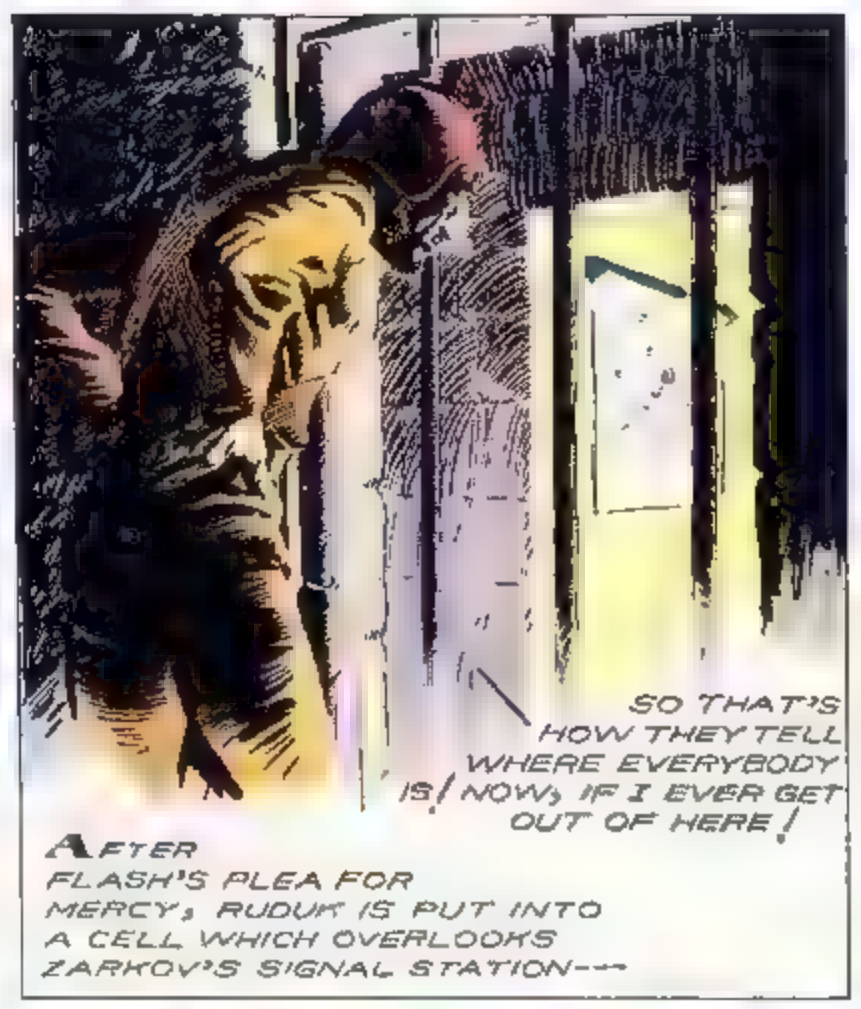
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, DARLING--I'M SO SORRY WE QUARRELED!

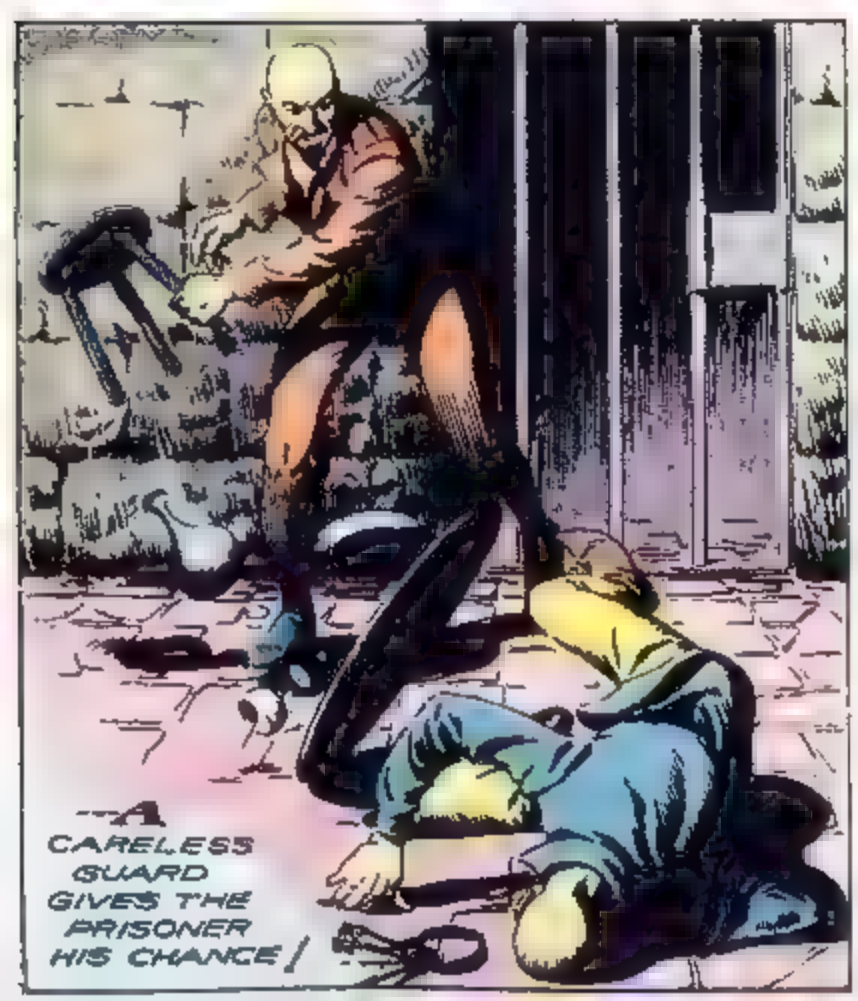
I LOVE YOU SO, FLASH! AND I'M GLAD YOU AREN'T ANGRY WITH ME--BUT WHY DID YOU KISS THAT GIRL?

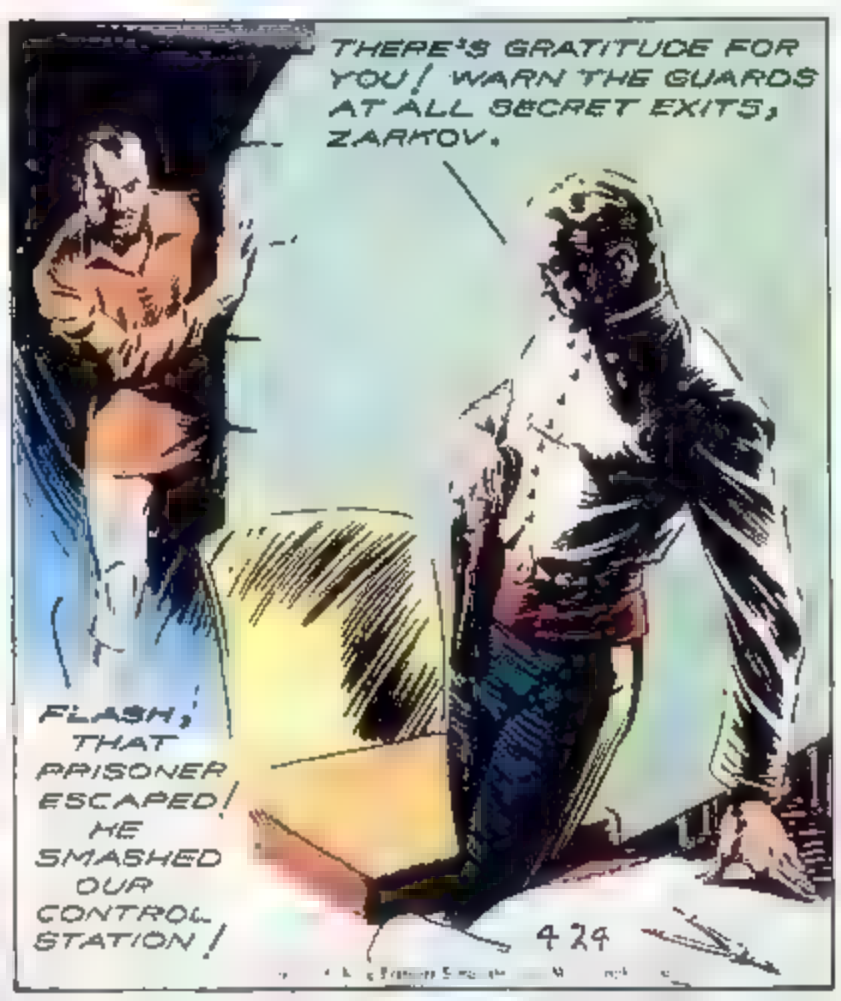
NEXT WEEK:— OUTLAWS' LAW—

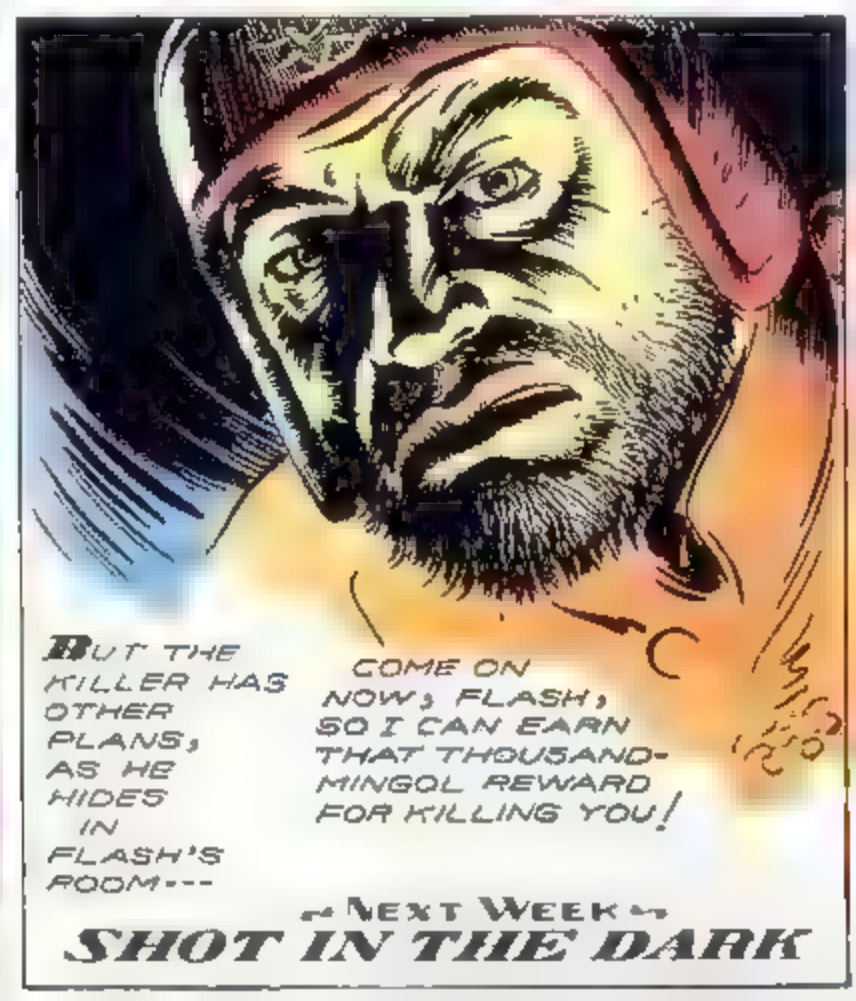

IT IS THE SENTENCE OF THIS COURT, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THIS ORGANIZATION OF FREEMEN, YOU DIE FOR THE CRIMES OF TREASON AND MURDEROUS ASSAULT.

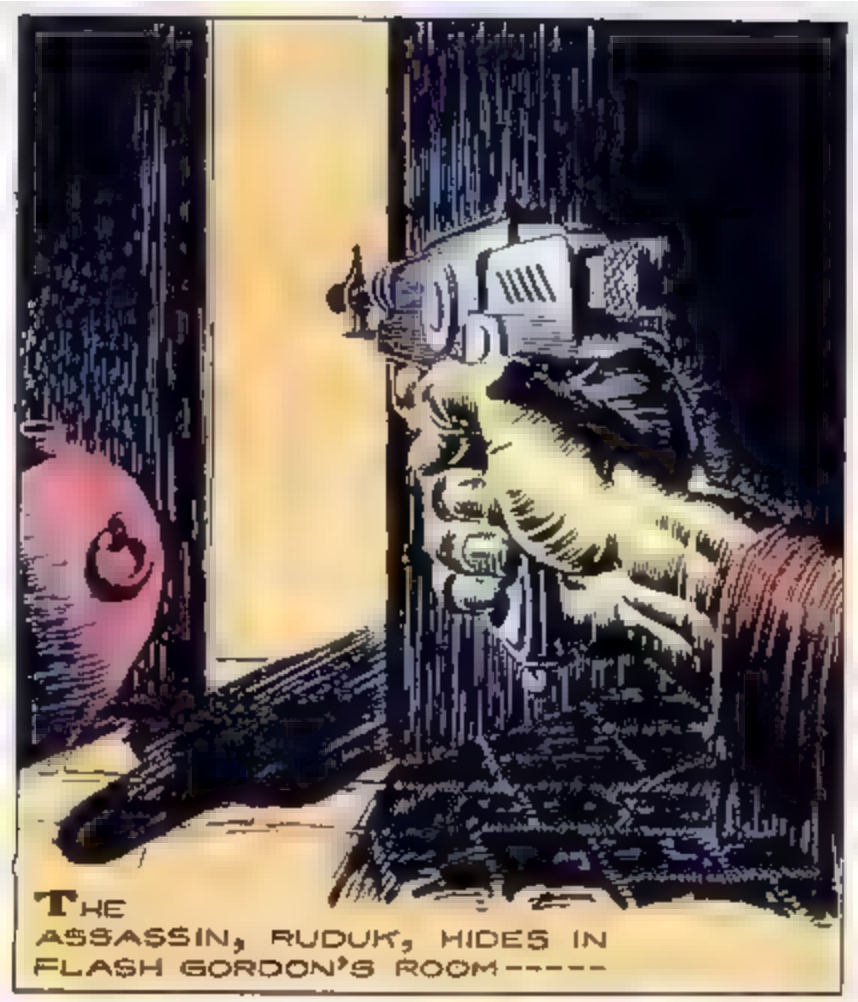

FLASH STEPS DOWN FROM THE BENCH----
IF THE COURT PLEASE, THERE IS NO ONE TO SPEAK FOR THIS MAN. AS YOUR LEADER, AND HIS INTENDED VICTIM, I ASK THE MERCY OF THE COURT. THE WRETCH WAS TEMPTED BY THE RICH REWARD PLACED ON MY HEAD BY MING.


SO THAT'S HOW THEY TELL WHERE EVERYBODY IS! NOW, IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE!
AFTER FLASH'S PLEA FOR MERCY, RUDUK IS PUT INTO A CELL WHICH OVERLOOKS ZARKOV'S SIGNAL STATION---

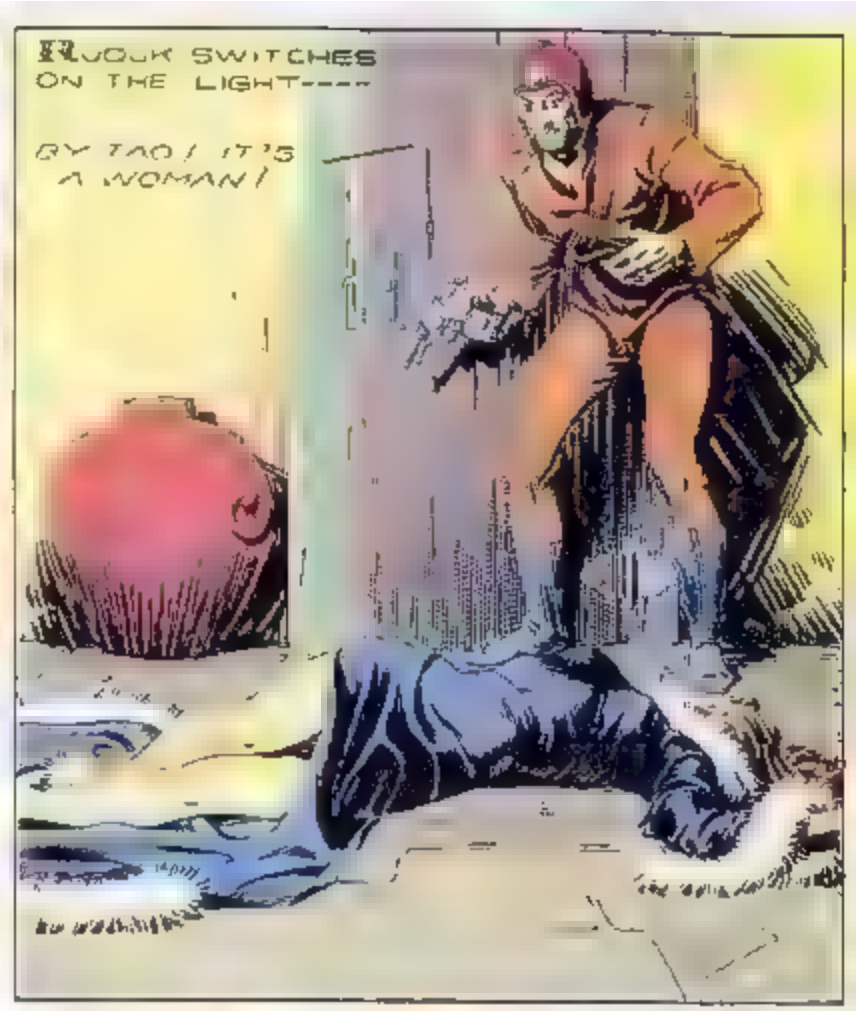

--A CARELESS GUARD GIVES THE PRISONER HIS CHANCE!


THERE'S GRATITUDE FOR YOU! WARN THE GUARDS AT ALL SECRET EXITS, ZARKOV.
FLASH, THAT PRISONER ESCAPED! HE SMASHED OUR CONTROL STATION!
424

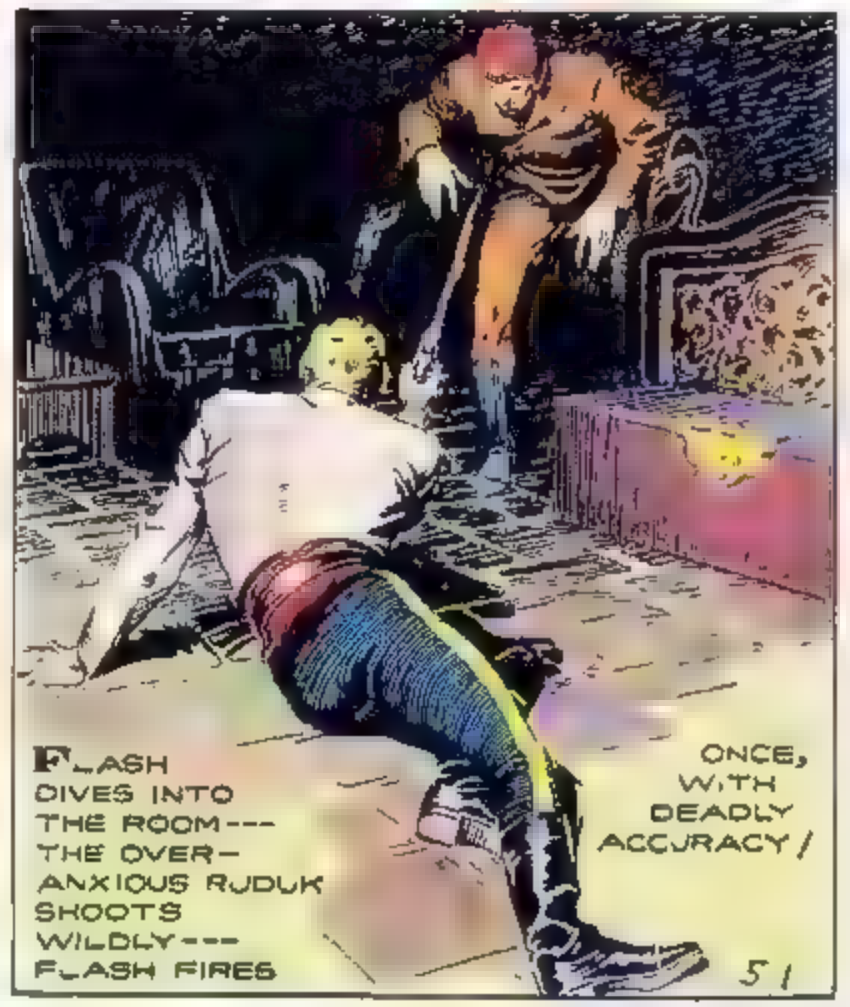

BUT THE KILLER HAS OTHER PLANS, AS HE HIDES IN FLASH'S ROOM---
COME ON NOW, FLASH, SO I CAN EARN THAT THOUSAND-MINGOL REWARD FOR KILLING YOU!
NEXT WEEK
SHOT IN THE DARK


THE ASSASSIN, RUDUK, HIDES IN FLASH GORDON'S ROOM-----

I GOT YOU, FLASH, AND A THOUSAND GOLD MINGOLS FROM THE EMPEROR!
A FORM APPEARS, SILHOUETTED IN THE DOORWAY, AND THE KILLER FIRES!


RUDUK SWITCHES ON THE LIGHT----
BY TAO! IT'S A WOMAN!

HEARING APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS, RUDUK TURNS OUT THE LIGHT AND HIDES---
GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S SONJA-- SHE'S BEEN SHOT!


FLASH DIVES INTO THE ROOM--- THE OVER-ANXIOUS RUDUK SHOOTS WILDLY--- FLASH FIRES
ONCE, WITH DEADLY ACCURACY!
51

ALEX RAYMOND
JUST A FLESH WOUND, SONJA--- DOES IT HURT VERY MUCH?
NOT MUCH--- NOW.
NEXT WEEK — DISASTER

AN ASSASSIN, LURKING IN FLASH'S ROOM, HAS SHOT SONJA BY MISTAKE-----
I'M GLAD IT WAS ME INSTEAD OF YOU, FLASH-- I--WE NEED YOU!
YOU POOR KID! DALE, CALL BULOK-- HE'LL TAKE SONJA TO HER ROOM--

JUST WHY DID YOU GO TO FLASH'S ROOM, SONJA?
ER--MY BROTHER, BULOK, SENT ME TO FIND FLASH--
HUH? OH--YES! YES! HA! OF COURSE!

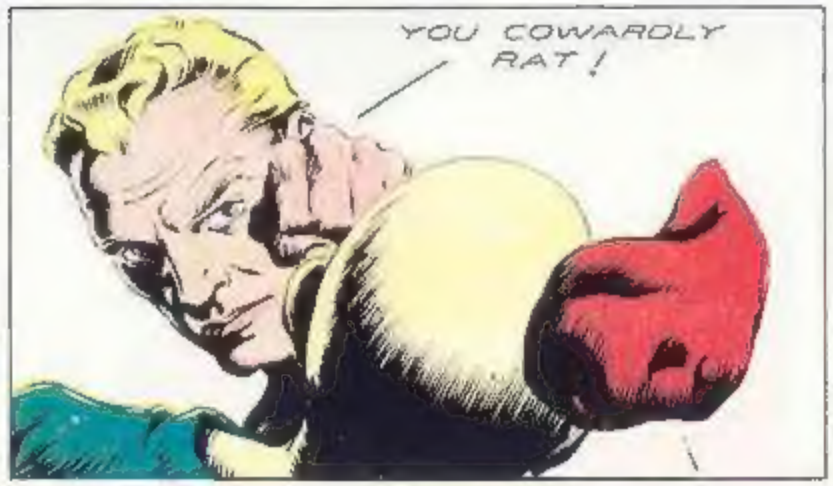
WHY DID I SAY YOU SENT ME AFTER FLASH? STUPID! REMEMBER, BULOK, IF YOU EVER SAY IT WASN'T TRUE, I'LL KILL MYSELF!
I GUESS I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN!

YOU COULD SEE BY BULOK'S FACE THAT HE NEVER SENT HER! THAT GIRL IS THROWING HERSELF AT YOU, FLASH!
DALE, AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE SILLY AND CATTY?

A CAT, AM I? MAYBE YOU LIKE HAVING SONJA RUN AFTER YOU! WELL, SHE CAN HAVE YOU--I HATE YOU--I HOPE I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
I GUESS I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN!

AN EXCITED MESSENGER DASHES UP TO FLASH----
NO, I AIN'T BEEN DRINKIN'! I TELL YOU MING IS FLOODIN' THE TUNNELS!
QUICK! SOUND THE ALARM! WE'VE GOT TO GET EVERYBODY OUT OF HERE!
NEXT WEEK: FLOOD
5-8

YOU AND YOUR WILD IDEAS! WATER POURING INTO THE TUNNELS AND YOU WANT US TO STAY HERE AND SET OFF BOMBS! I'M NOT STAYING HERE TO DROWN LIKE A RAT FOR YOU OR ANYONE ELSE! I SAY EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF! AND THAT GOES FOR THE WOMEN, TOO!
MING HAS DAMMED A RIVER TO FLOOD THE FREEMEN'S--
--TUNNELS UNDER THE CITY.

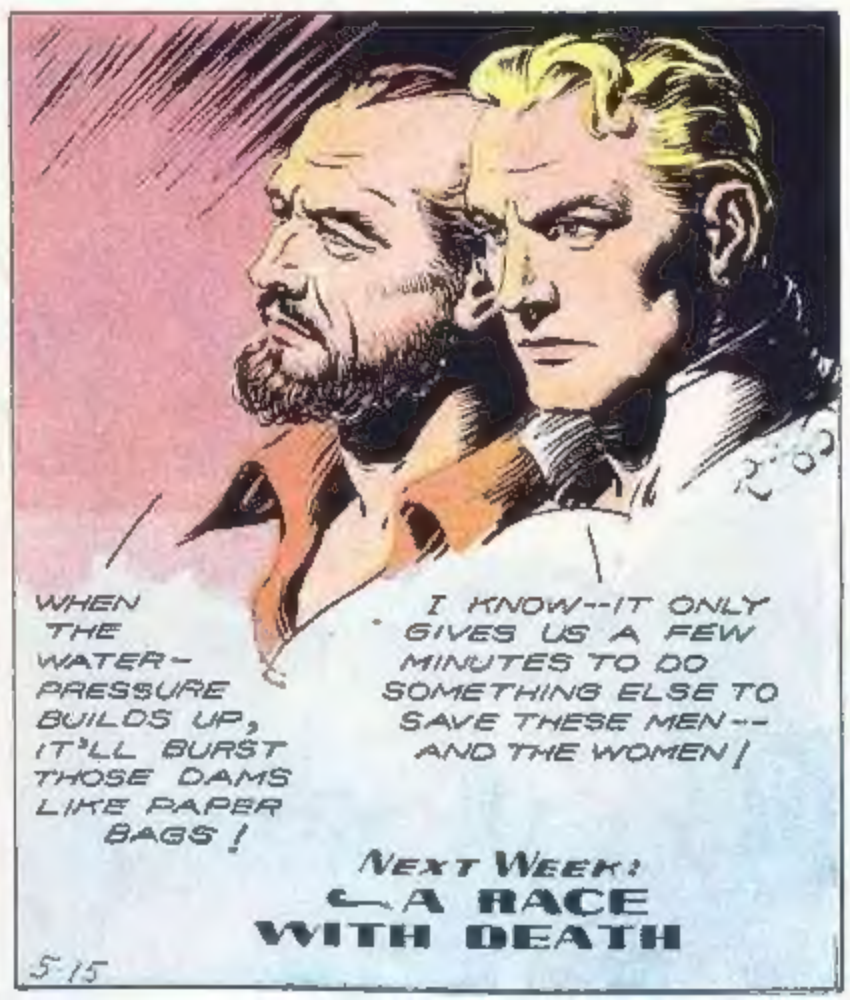

YOU COWARDLY RAT!

ARE THERE ANY MORE COWARDS AMONG YOU? NO? GOOD! WE ARE GOING TO SET OFF BOMBS IN EACH TUNNEL. LET'S GO!

EXPLOSIVES ARE PLANTED AND THE FUSES LIGHTED.

GREAT EXPLOSIONS CHOKE THE TUNNELS WITH ROCK, DIRT AND RUBBLE, CHECKING THE SWIRLING FLOOD-WATERS.

THE OUTLAWS PLUG THE CRUDE, LEAKING BARRIERS WITH CONCRETITE.

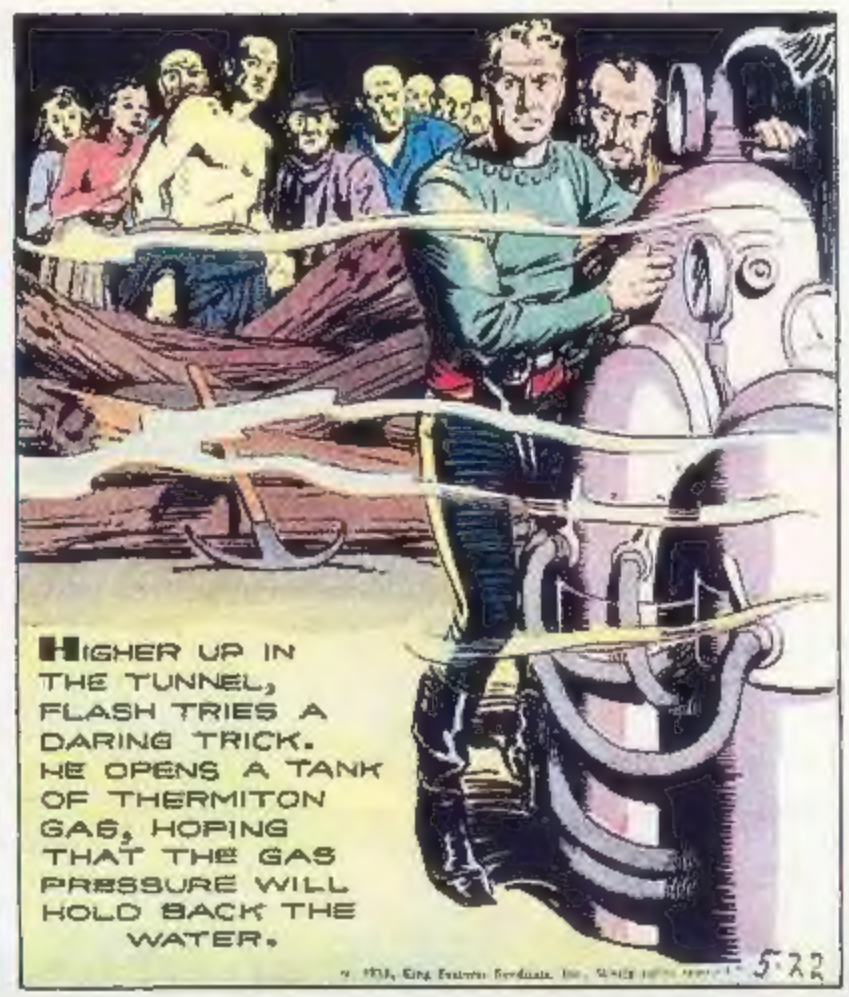

WHEN THE WATER-PRESSURE BUILDS UP, IT'LL BURST THOSE DAMS LIKE PAPER BAGS!
I KNOW--IT ONLY GIVES US A FEW MINUTES TO DO SOMETHING ELSE TO SAVE THESE MEN--AND THE WOMEN!
NEXT WEEK!
A RACE WITH DEATH
5-15

MING, THE MERCILESS, DIVERTS A RIVER INTO THE FREEMEN'S TUNNEL SYSTEM, WITH THE INTENTION OF DROWNING THEM. REALIZING THAT THEIR ONLY HOPE LIES IN REACHING THE SURFACE, FLASH EQUIPS TWO MEN WITH THERMITON-THROWERS AND SETS THEM TO BURNING OUT A NEW TUNNEL.

ANOTHER GROUP TOILS DESPERATELY, SHORING UP THE TUNNEL WALLS TO PREVENT A CAVE-IN.

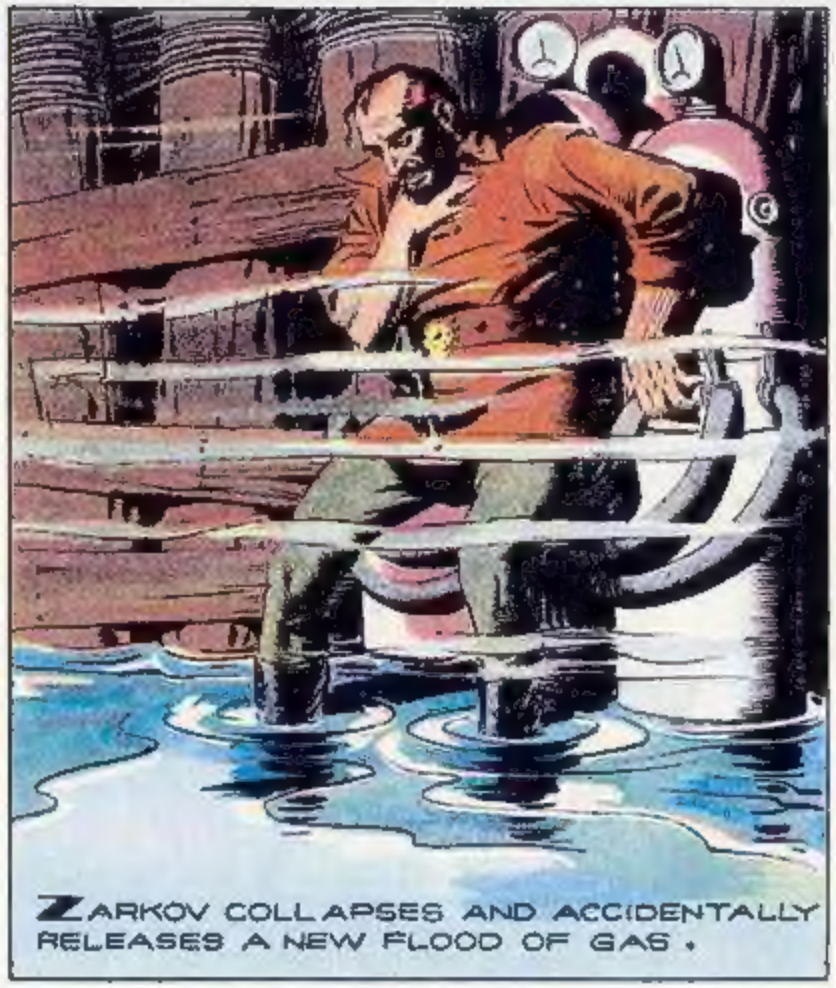
ZARKOV HAS SET UP A METAL SHIELD AT THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE. HIS MEN BRACE IT AND PACK ITS EDGES WITH BAGS OF DIRT, SAND AND STONE.

BUT THE PRESSURE IS TOO GREAT. THE WATER FORCES THE PACKING OUT AND GUSHES THROUGH IN A HALF-DOZEN DIFFERENT PLACES.


HIGHER UP IN THE TUNNEL, FLASH TRIES A DARING TRICK. HE OPENS A TANK OF THERMITON GAS, HOPING THAT THE GAS PRESSURE WILL HOLD BACK THE WATER.
5-22

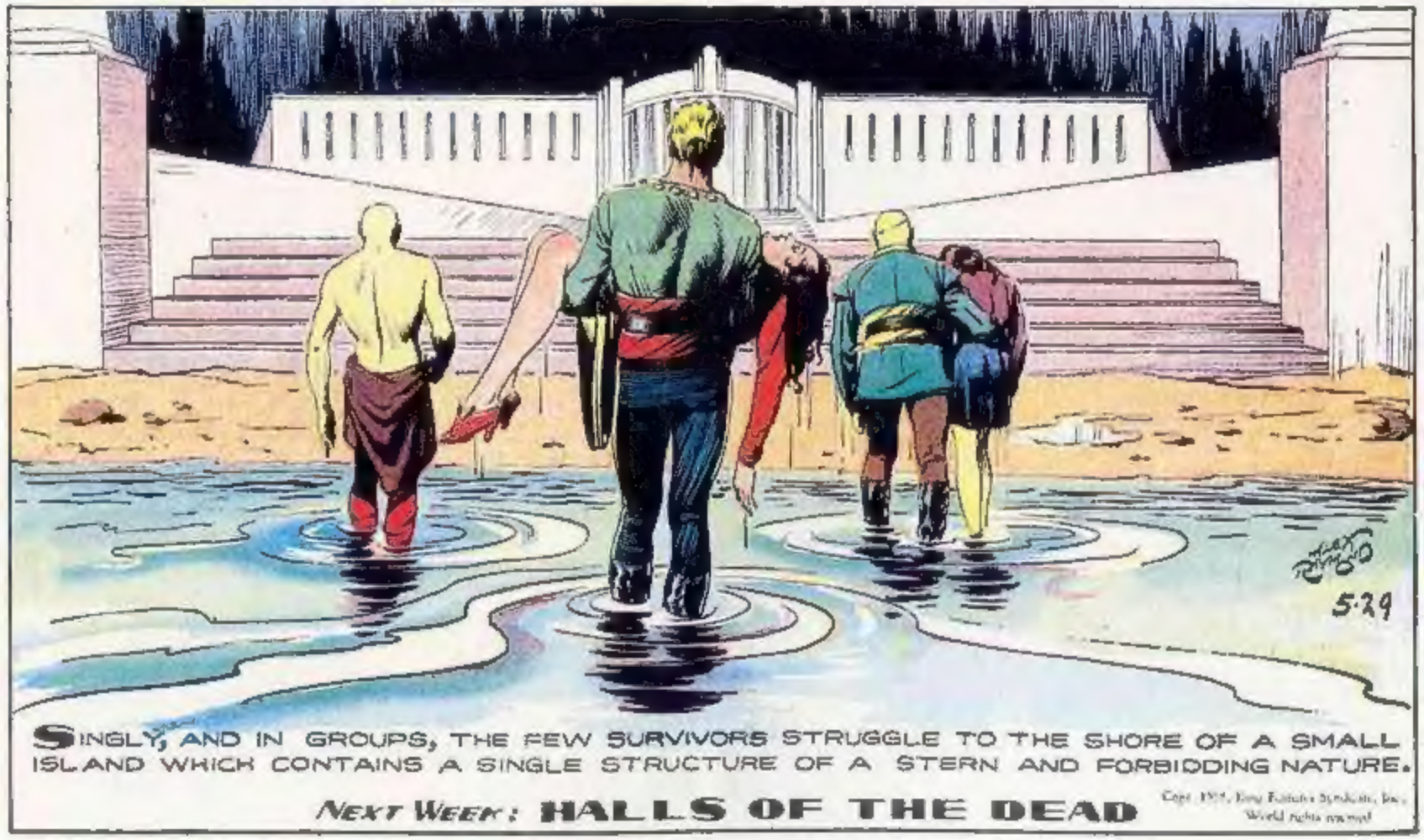
FLASH! I'M CHOKING! I-I CAN'T BREATHE!
NEXT WEEK: BLOWN UP

THE EXPANDING GAS RELEASED BY FLASH IS HOLDING BACK THE FLOOD WATERS, BUT CHOKING HIS GALLANT BAND.


ZARKOV COLLAPSES AND ACCIDENTALLY RELEASES A NEW FLOOD OF GAS.

THE TERRIFIC PRESSURE BLOWS OPEN THE TUNNEL'S END--AND SHOOTS THEM UP INTO A RIVER OVER THEIR HEADS!

FLASH PLUNGES AFTER DALE AS HE SEES HER UNCONSCIOUS FORM SINK BELOW THE RIVER SURFACE.


5-29
SINGLY, AND IN GROUPS, THE FEW SURVIVORS STRUGGLE TO THE SHORE OF A SMALL ISLAND WHICH CONTAINS A SINGLE STRUCTURE OF A STERN AND FORBIDDING NATURE.
NEXT WEEK: HALLS OF THE DEAD